MARVEL MASTERWORKS

1

BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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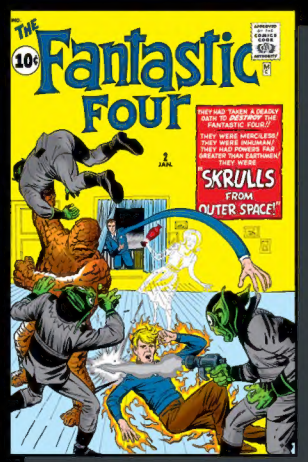
THE Fantastic Four
10¢
1 JAN.
THEY HAD TAKEN A DEADLY OATH TO DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
THEY WERE MERCILESS! THEY WERE INHUMAN! THEY'D TURNED THE GREATEST FOUR EARTHMEN THEY WERE
"SKRULLS FROM OUTER SPACE!"

12¢
THE Fantastic Four
3 MAR.
THE GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD!!
IN THIS GREAT, COLLECTORS'-ITEM ISSUE, YOU WILL SEE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE AMAZING
FANTASTI-CAR, THE COLORFUL NEW FANTASTIC FOUR COSTUMES, AND OTHER STARTLING SURPRISES!
ALSO, LEARN THE SECRET OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S SKYSCRAPER HIDE-OUT!!

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THE Fantastic Four
4 MAY
STOP HIM! IF THE SUB-MARINER REACHES THE WATER, HE'LL BECOME INVINCIBLE!
"THE COMING OF THE SUB-MARINER!"

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
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THE Fantastic Four
5 JULY
"MEET... DOCTOR DOOM!"
WITH A TURN OF THIS DIAL, I SHALL DESTROY THE FOUR OF YOU, FOREVER!!
I'VE GOT TO REACH HIM! HE'S DRAINING THE AIR OUT OF THE ROOM! I CAN'T BREATHE! MY--MY STRENGTH IS SAPPING!
AIR! I GOTTA HAVE AIR!
MY FLAME IS DYING WITHOUT OXYGEN! I'M HELPLESS!
I MUST GET IN TO SAVE THEM! BUT HOW? HOW?!?

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THE Fantastic Four
6 SEPT
HAVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AT LAST MET THEIR MATCH WHEN MIGHTY SUB-MARINER AND EVIL DOCTOR DOOM TEAM UP?? DON'T MISS "the DIABOLICAL DUO JOIN FORCES!"
THE TIME HAS COME, SUB-MARINER! DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
NO MATTER WHAT POWERS YOU BOTH HAVE, WE SHALL DEFEAT YOU! THE FANTASTIC FOUR SWEAR IT!

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
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THE Fantastic Four
7 OCT.
WHY DOES THE HUMAN RACE TURN AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR?? ONLY "THE MASTER OF PLANET X" KNOWS THE ANSWER!!
WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE
MISTER FANTASTIC
HUMAN TORCH
THE THING
INVISIBLE GIRL
WE ESCAPED JUST IN TIME! WE CAN'T REMAIN ON EARTH ANY LONGER! WE'VE GOT TO HEAD FOR PLANET X!!
DOWN WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!

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THE Fantastic Four
8 NOV.
OBEY ME, MY PUPPETS! FOR MY WILL IS YOUR WILL! YOU SHALL NEVER ESCAPE YOUR NEW MASTER!
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF! THE PUPPET-MASTER IS MAKING ME ATTACK THE OTHERS!
DON'T THINK! WE MUSTN'T LET HIM CONTROL US!
"PRISONERS OF THE PUPPET-MASTER!"

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THE Fantastic Four
9 DEC.
WHAT HAPPENS TO COMIC MAGAZINE HEROES WHEN THEY CAN'T PAY THEIR RENT AND HAVE NO PLACE TO THINK? DON'T MISS THE STRANGEST AND MOST ORIGINAL TALE OF ALL!!
LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT THEY WILL SOON BE AT THE MERCY OF THE SUB-MARINER!
THE END OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
FANTASTIC FOUR EVICTED FROM BUILDING!
5 TOWER FLOORS FOR RENT!
HEROES ONE MINUTE--BUMS THE NEXT! HOW DID IT HAPPEN TO US??

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
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THE Fantastic Four
10 JAN.
HOLD YOUR BREATH!! HERE IS... "THE RETURN OF DOCTOR DOOM!"
HOW'S THIS FOR A TWIST, JACK? WE'VE GOT DOCTOR DOOM AS ONE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
...AND MISTER FANTASTIC HIMSELF IS THE VILLAIN! OUR FANS OUGHTA FLIP OVER THIS YARN!!
IN THIS EPIC ISSUE SURPRISE FOLLOWS SURPRISE AS YOU ACTUALLY MEET "THE MASTER OF PLANET X" IN A GORGEOUS PIN-UP OF THE INVISIBLE GIRL!

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS PROUDLY PRESENT THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COMICS AND SUPER HEROES FROM THEIR VERY BEGINNINGS IN A SERIES OF PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED ARCHIVAL VOLUMES.

MARVEL

COLLECTING *THE FANTASTIC FOUR* #1-10

THE FANTASTIC FOUR®

MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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IND.
THE Fantastic Four
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
1 NOV.
10¢
I--I CAN'T TURN INVISIBLE FAST ENOUGH!! HOW CAN WE STOP THIS CREATURE, TORCH?
JUST WAIT AND SEE, SISTER! THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE ONLY BEGUN TO FIGHT!
FEATURING:
"THE THING!"
"MR. FANTASTIC!"
"HUMAN TORCH!"
"INVISIBLE GIRL!"
TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ONE MIGHTY MAGAZINE!
THE THREE OF YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE! IT'S TIME FOR THE THING TO TAKE A HAND!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN ROPES TO KEEP MISTER FANTASTIC OUT OF ACTION!
135
TO LET
137 BEAUTY SA
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WITH THE SUDDEN FURY OF A THUNDERBOLT, A FLARE IS SHOT INTO THE SKY OVER CENTRAL CITY! THREE AWESOME WORDS TAKE FORM AS IF BY MAGIC, AND A LEGEND IS BORN!!

LOOK! IN THE SKY--WHAT IN BLAZES DOES IT MEAN?

I DUNNO, BUT THE CROWDS ARE GETTIN' PANICKY!

RUMORS ARE FLYIN' ABOUT AN ALIEN INVASION!

ABOVE ALL THE HUBBUB AND EXCITEMENT, ONE STRANGE FIGURE HOLDS A STILL-SMOKING FLARE GUN! ONE STRANGE MAN WHO IS SOMEHOW MORE THAN JUST A MAN--FOR HE IS THE LEADER OF... THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

IT IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO GIVE THE SIGNAL! I PRAY IT WILL BE THE LAST!

1

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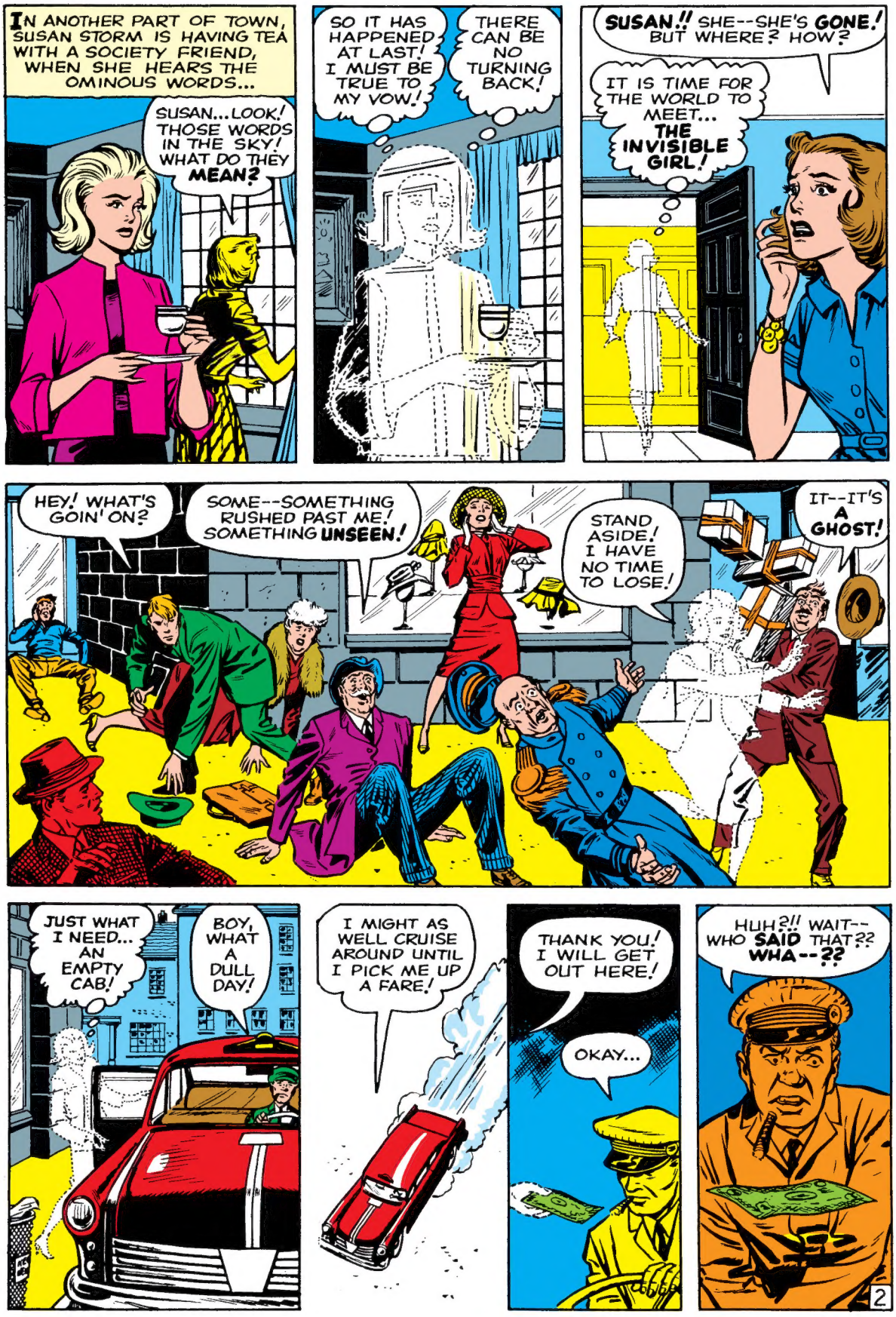
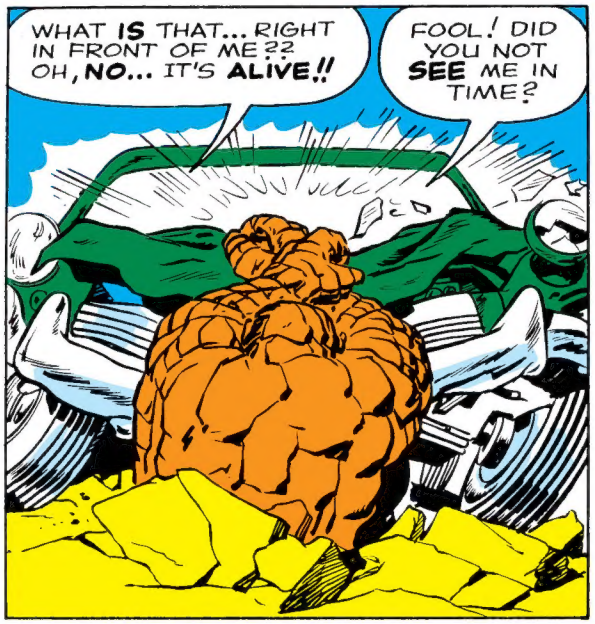
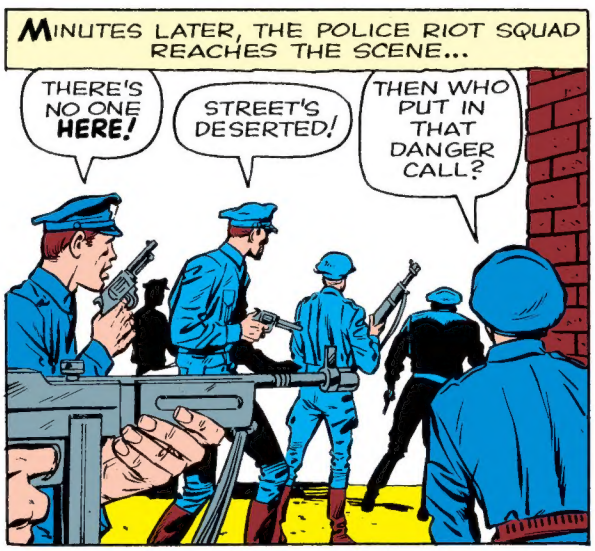

IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, SUSAN STORM IS HAVING TEA WITH A SOCIETY FRIEND, WHEN SHE HEARS THE OMINOUS WORDS...
SUSAN...LOOK! THOSE WORDS IN THE SKY! WHAT DO THEY MEAN?
SO IT HAS HAPPENED AT LAST! I MUST BE TRUE TO MY VOW!
THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK!
SUSAN!! SHE--SHE'S GONE! BUT WHERE? HOW?
IT IS TIME FOR THE WORLD TO MEET... THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
SOME--SOMETHING RUSHED PAST ME! SOMETHING UNSEEN!
STAND ASIDE! I HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!
IT--IT'S A GHOST!
JUST WHAT I NEED... AN EMPTY CAB!
BOY, WHAT A DULL DAY!
I MIGHT AS WELL CRUISE AROUND UNTIL I PICK ME UP A FARE!
THANK YOU! I WILL GET OUT HERE!
OKAY...
HUH?!! WAIT-- WHO SAID THAT?? WHA--??
2

DON'T JUST SIT THERE GAPING, MAN! TAKE YOUR MONEY!
I--I'M HEARIN' THINGS! SEEIN' THINGS! OR--OR NOT SEEIN' THEM!!
GANGWAY! I'M GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!
IT WORKS! I REALLY AM INVISIBLE! COMPLETELY, TOTALLY INVISIBLE! THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT! NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS... MY MISSION!
BUT LET US LEAVE THE AMAZING INVISIBLE GIRL AND TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A MEN'S CLOTHING STORE, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...
I'M SORRY, MISTER, I JUST DON'T CARRY ANYTHING BIG ENOUGH TO FIT A MAN YOUR SIZE!
BAH! EVERYWHERE IT IS THE SAME! I LIVE IN A WORLD TOO SMALL FOR ME!
LOOK! OUT THE WINDOW IN THE SKY!
THOSE WORDS... "THE FANTASTIC FOUR"! WHAT CAN THEY MEAN?
SO! THE TIME HAS COME!
WAIT, DON'T BOTHER TAKING OFF YOUR COAT... I TOLD YOU WE HAVEN'T ANYTHING IN YOUR SIZE...
YOUR--YOUR-- SIZE...
OH NO...
WHAT A RELIEF TO GET RID OF THOSE TIGHT RAGS!
3

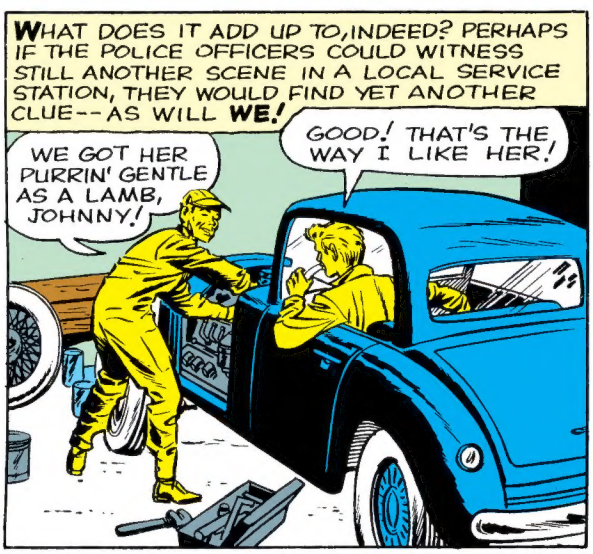
WHY MUST THEY BUILD DOORWAYS SO NARROW?
HOLY SMOKE!! A--A--MONSTER!
PETE, LOOK! WHAT'S THAT?
I DUNNO... BUT I AIN'T TAKIN' ANY CHANCES WITH IT!
HALT!! HALT OR I'LL SHOOT!!
OKAY, I WARNED YOU!
HIS FIRST SHOT MISSED BECAUSE HE WAS SO NERVOUS! BUT HE'LL NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE!
DID YOU SEE THAT? HE RIPPED THE MANHOLE COVER OUT OF THE GROUND WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I HAVE GONE FAR ENOUGH! I SHOULD BE UNDER MY DESTINATION BY NOW! BUT THERE IS NO MANHOLE ABOVE ME-- NO OPENING!
BAH! I CANNOT DELAY! I'LL MAKE AN OPENING!
4

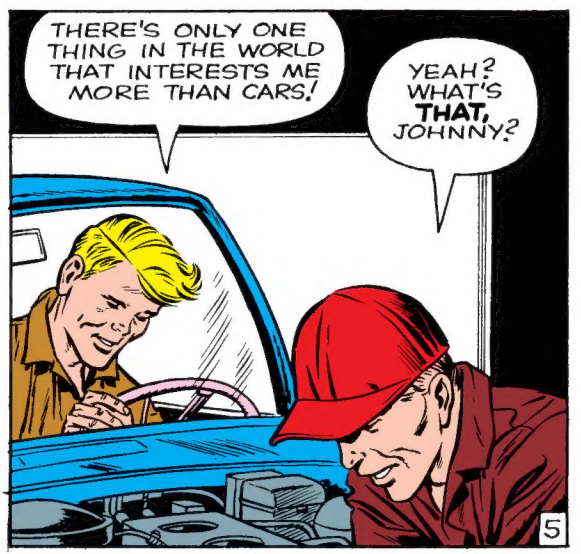

WHAT IS THAT... RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME?? OH, NO... IT'S ALIVE!!
FOOL! DID YOU NOT SEE ME IN TIME?

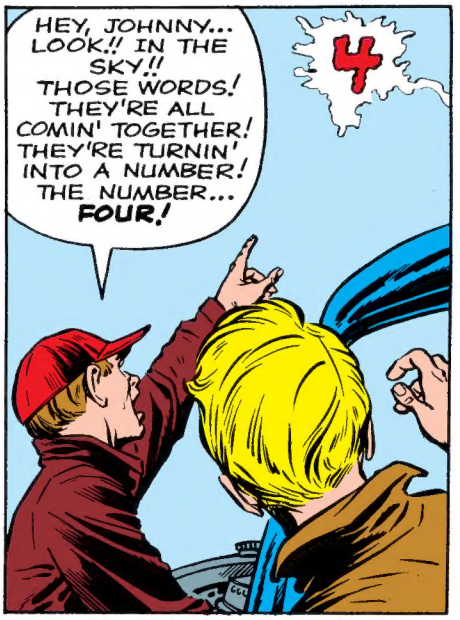
IT'S A WALKING NIGHTMARE!! HELP!! HELP!!
LILY-LIVERED COWARDS!
IT AIN'T HUMAN! IT'S TOO BIG... TOO STRONG!! IT--IT'S A MARTIAN!


MINUTES LATER, THE POLICE RIOT SQUAD REACHES THE SCENE...
THERE'S NO ONE HERE!
STREET'S DESERTED!
THEN WHO PUT IN THAT DANGER CALL?

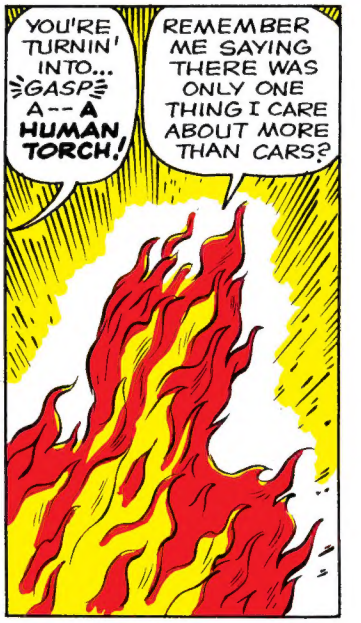
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENING IN CENTRAL CITY! THOSE WORDS IN THE SKY... THOSE SCATTERED REPORTS OF MONSTERS WALKING THE STREETS...
BUT WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO, CHIEF? ...WHAT?

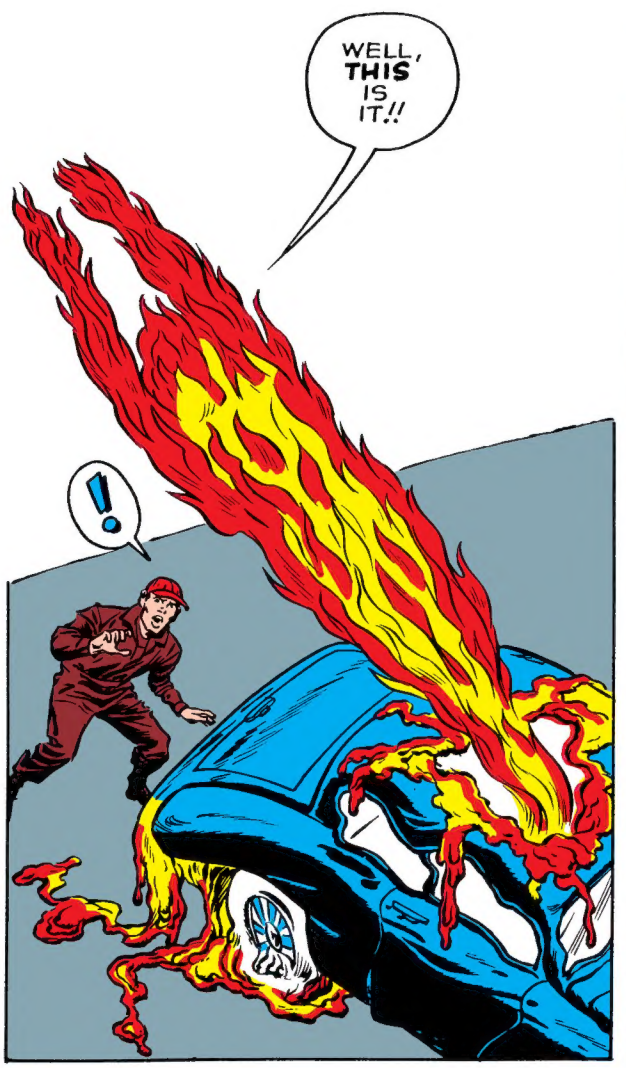

WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO, INDEED? PERHAPS IF THE POLICE OFFICERS COULD WITNESS STILL ANOTHER SCENE IN A LOCAL SERVICE STATION, THEY WOULD FIND YET ANOTHER CLUE--AS WILL WE!
WE GOT HER PURRIN' GENTLE AS A LAMB, JOHNNY!
GOOD! THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE HER!


THERE'S ONLY ONE THING IN THE WORLD THAT INTERESTS ME MORE THAN CARS!
YEAH? WHAT'S THAT, JOHNNY?

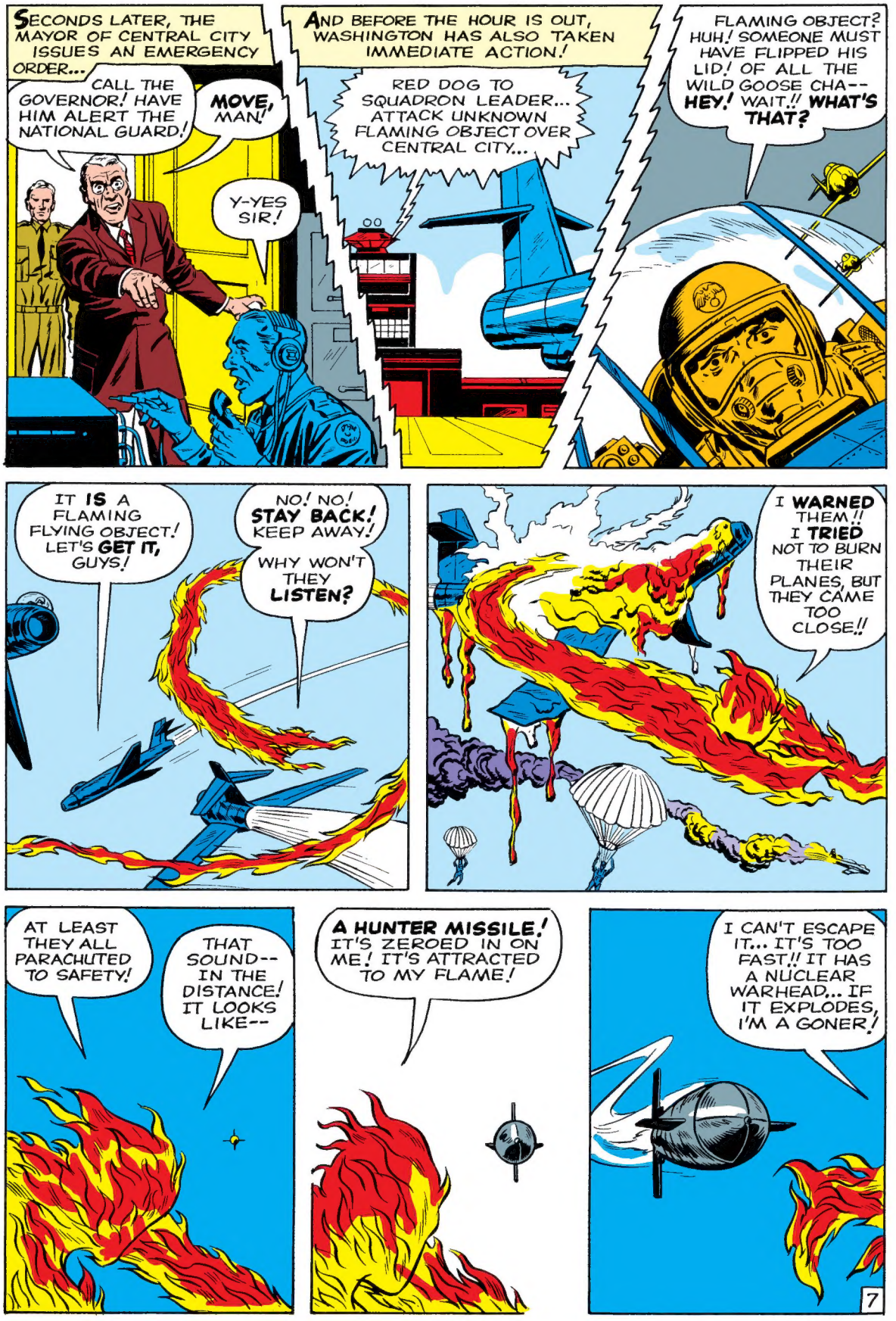

HEY, JOHNNY... LOOK!! IN THE SKY!! THOSE WORDS! THEY'RE ALL COMIN' TOGETHER! THEY'RE TURNIN' INTO A NUMBER! THE NUMBER... FOUR!
4

JOHNNY! THAT HEAT! WHERE'S IT COMIN' FROM? WHA--? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
DON'T WORRY, PAL!


YOU'RE TURNIN' INTO... GASP! A-- A HUMAN TORCH!
REMEMBER ME SAYING THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I CARE ABOUT MORE THAN CARS?


WELL, THIS IS IT!!
!

IMPOSSIBLE? INCREDIBLE? CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, BUT THE FIGURE WHICH HAD BEEN JOHNNY STORM, SCANT SECONDS BEFORE, IS NOW A CAREENING HUMAN TORCH, FLASHING THRU THE SKIES ABOVE LIKE A FLAMING METEOR!
LOOK! A BLAZING, BURNING COMET!
NO!! IT'S NOT A COMET!! IT'S-- IT'S--
UNLESS WE'RE GOING MAD--IT'S SOMETHING HUMAN!
6


SECONDS LATER, THE MAYOR OF CENTRAL CITY ISSUES AN EMERGENCY ORDER...
CALL THE GOVERNOR! HAVE HIM ALERT THE NATIONAL GUARD!
MOVE, MAN!
Y-YES SIR!
AND BEFORE THE HOUR IS OUT, WASHINGTON HAS ALSO TAKEN IMMEDIATE ACTION!
RED DOG TO SQUADRON LEADER... ATTACK UNKNOWN FLAMING OBJECT OVER CENTRAL CITY...
FLAMING OBJECT? HUH! SOMEONE MUST HAVE FLIPPED HIS LID! OF ALL THE WILD GOOSE CHA-- HEY! WAIT!! WHAT'S THAT?
IT IS A FLAMING FLYING OBJECT! LET'S GET IT, GUYS!
NO! NO! STAY BACK! KEEP AWAY!
WHY WON'T THEY LISTEN?
I WARNED THEM!! I TRIED NOT TO BURN THEIR PLANES, BUT THEY CAME TOO CLOSE!!
AT LEAST THEY ALL PARACHUTED TO SAFETY!
THAT SOUND-- IN THE DISTANCE! IT LOOKS LIKE--
A HUNTER MISSILE! IT'S ZEROED IN ON ME! IT'S ATTRACTED TO MY FLAME!
I CAN'T ESCAPE IT... IT'S TOO FAST!! IT HAS A NUCLEAR WARHEAD... IF IT EXPLODES, I'M A GONER!
7

SUDDENLY, THE HUMAN TORCH'S FLAME BEGINS TO DIMINISH... AND, AS THE MISSILE IS ABOUT TO STRIKE HIM, TWO IMPOSSIBLY LONG ARMS REACH ABOVE THE ROOF-TOPS, AND...

GOT IT!!

MOVING WITH DAZZLING SPEED, ONE OF THE INCREDIBLE ARMS HURLS THE MIGHTY MISSILE FAR FROM SHORE, WHERE IT EXPLODES HARMLESSLY OVER THE SEA!

BUT, AS THE FLYING BOY'S FLAME FLICKERS OUT ALTOGETHER, HE BEGINS TO PLUMMET TOWARD EARTH... TOWARD A CERTAIN DOOM!

GRAB ME, JOHNNY BOY!! THAT'S IT.!!

WHO **IS** THIS UNBELIEVABLE STRANGER WHO HAS SAVED THE HUMAN TORCH?

YOU'RE SAFE NOW, LAD! YOU'RE SAFE!

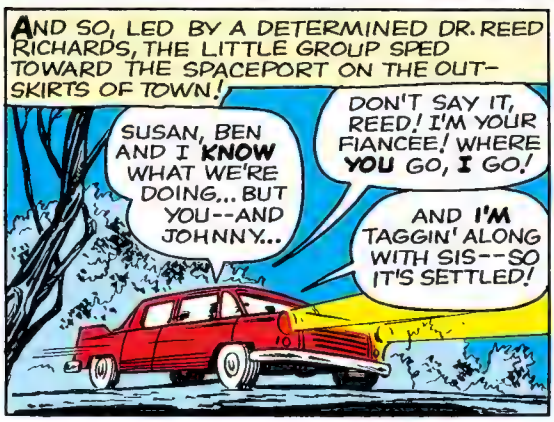
IN FACT, WHO ARE **ALL FOUR** OF THESE STRANGE AND ASTONISHING HUMANS? HOW DID THEY BECOME WHAT THEY ARE? WHAT MYSTIC QUIRK OF FATE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER, TO FORM THE AWE-INSPIRING GROUP KNOWN AS **THE FANTASTIC FOUR??**

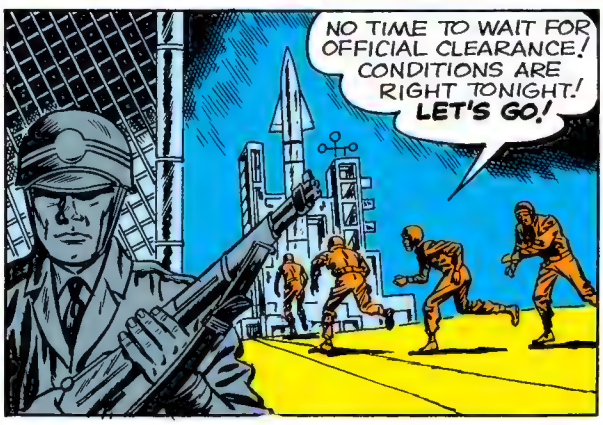
YOU ALL HEEDED MY SUMMONS!! GOOD!! THERE IS A TASK THAT AWAITS US... A FEARFUL TASK!

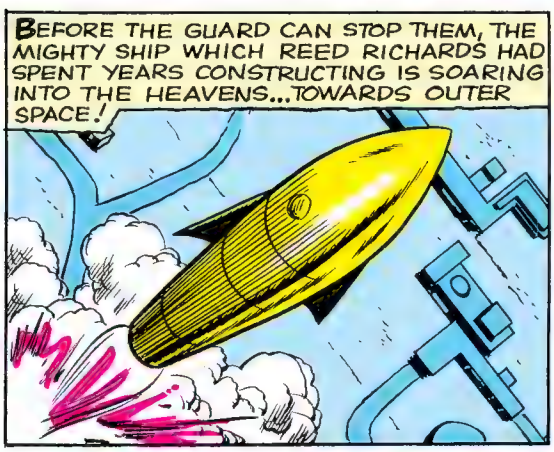
BUT, THERE IS TIME ENOUGH TO LEARN OF THE TASK WHICH FACES THE FANTASTIC FOUR! FIRST, LET US DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THEIR ORIGIN-- LET US GO BACK TO THAT MOMENTOUS DAY WHEN AN ANGRY BEN GRIMM CONFRONTED DR. REED RICHARDS...
IF YOU WANT TO FLY TO THE STARS, THEN YOU PILOT THE SHIP! COUNT ME OUT!
YOU KNOW WE HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECT OF COSMIC RAYS! THEY MIGHT KILL US ALL OUT IN SPACE!

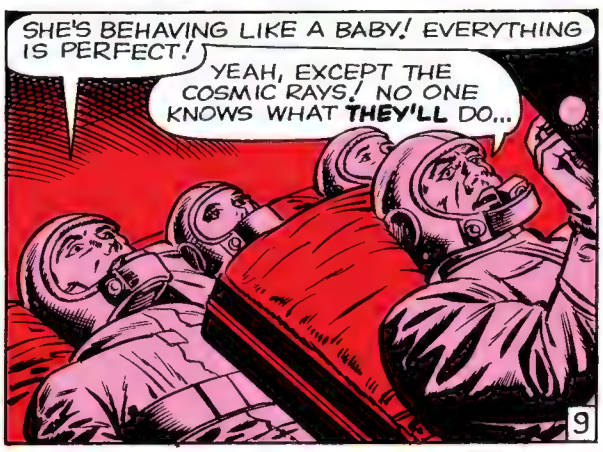
BEN, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THAT CHANCE... UNLESS WE WANT THE COMMIES TO BEAT US TO IT!
I--I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD BE A COWARD!

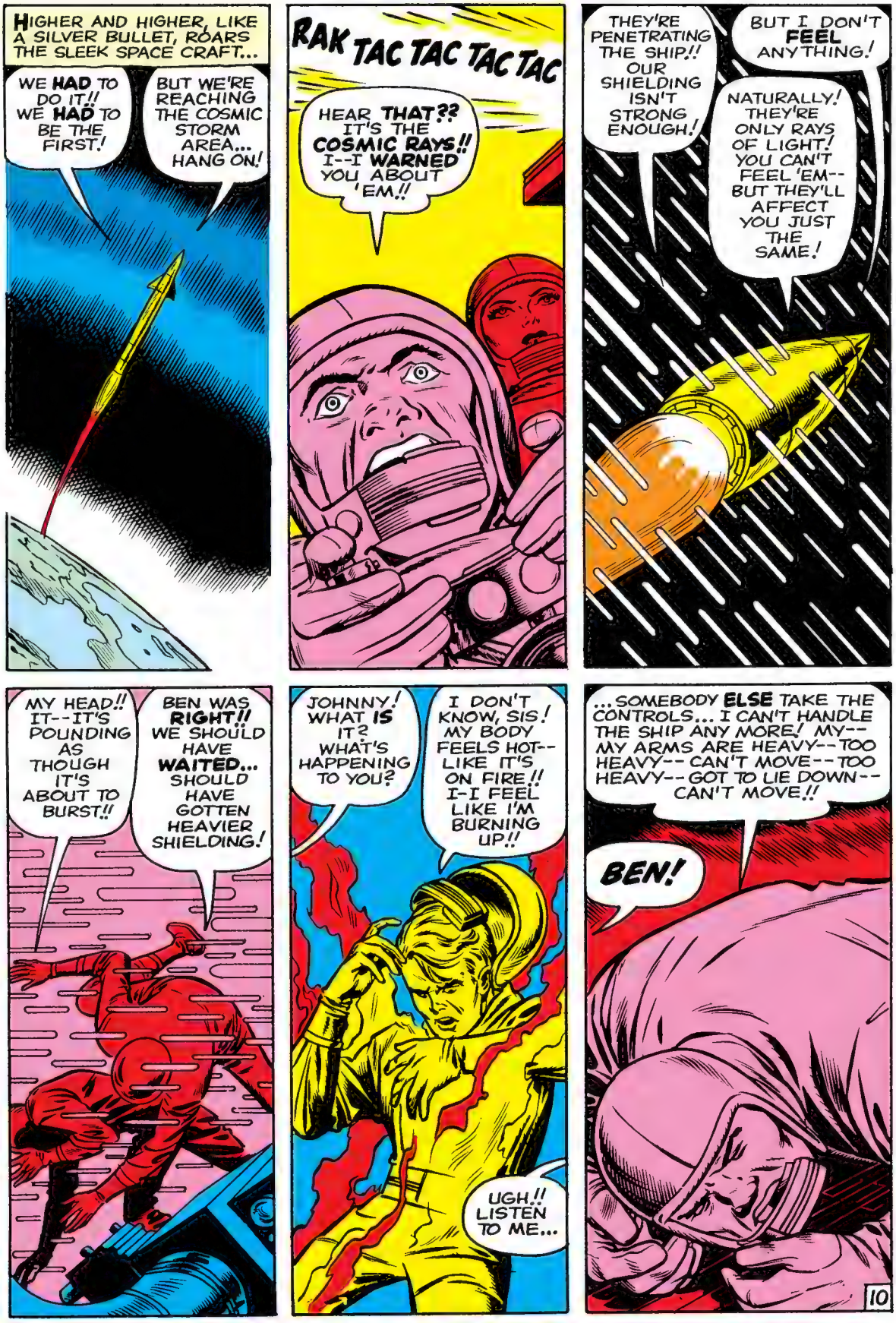
A COWARD!! NOBODY CALLS ME A COWARD! GET THE SHIP! I'LL FLY HER NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!!

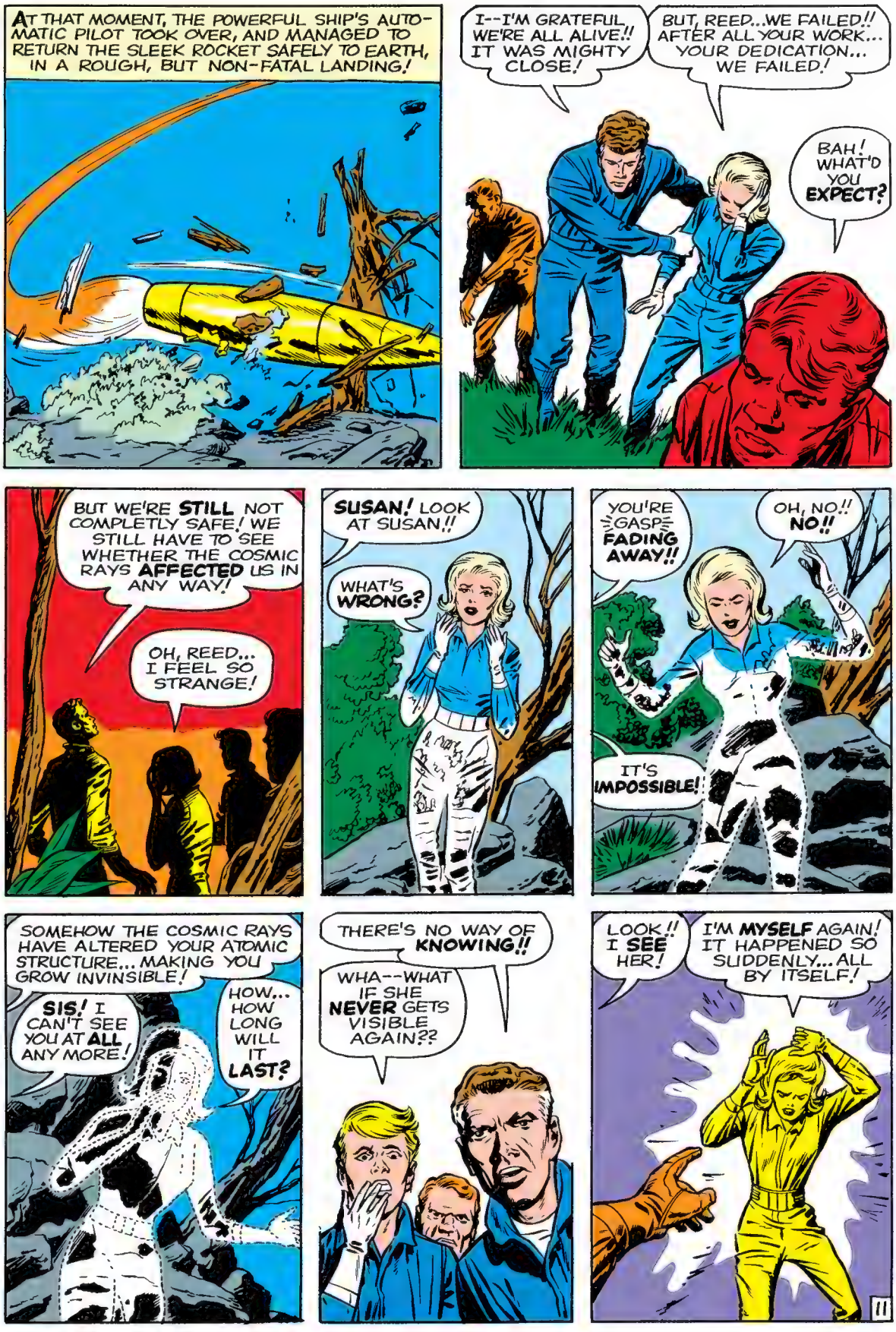

AND SO, LED BY A DETERMINED DR. REED RICHARDS, THE LITTLE GROUP SPED TOWARD THE SPACEPORT ON THE OUT-SKIRTS OF TOWN!
SUSAN, BEN AND I KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING... BUT YOU--AND JOHNNY...
DON'T SAY IT, REED! I'M YOUR FIANCÉE! WHERE YOU GO, I GO!
AND I'M TAGGIN' ALONG WITH SIS--SO IT'S SETTLED!


NO TIME TO WAIT FOR OFFICIAL CLEARANCE! CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT TONIGHT! LET'S GO!

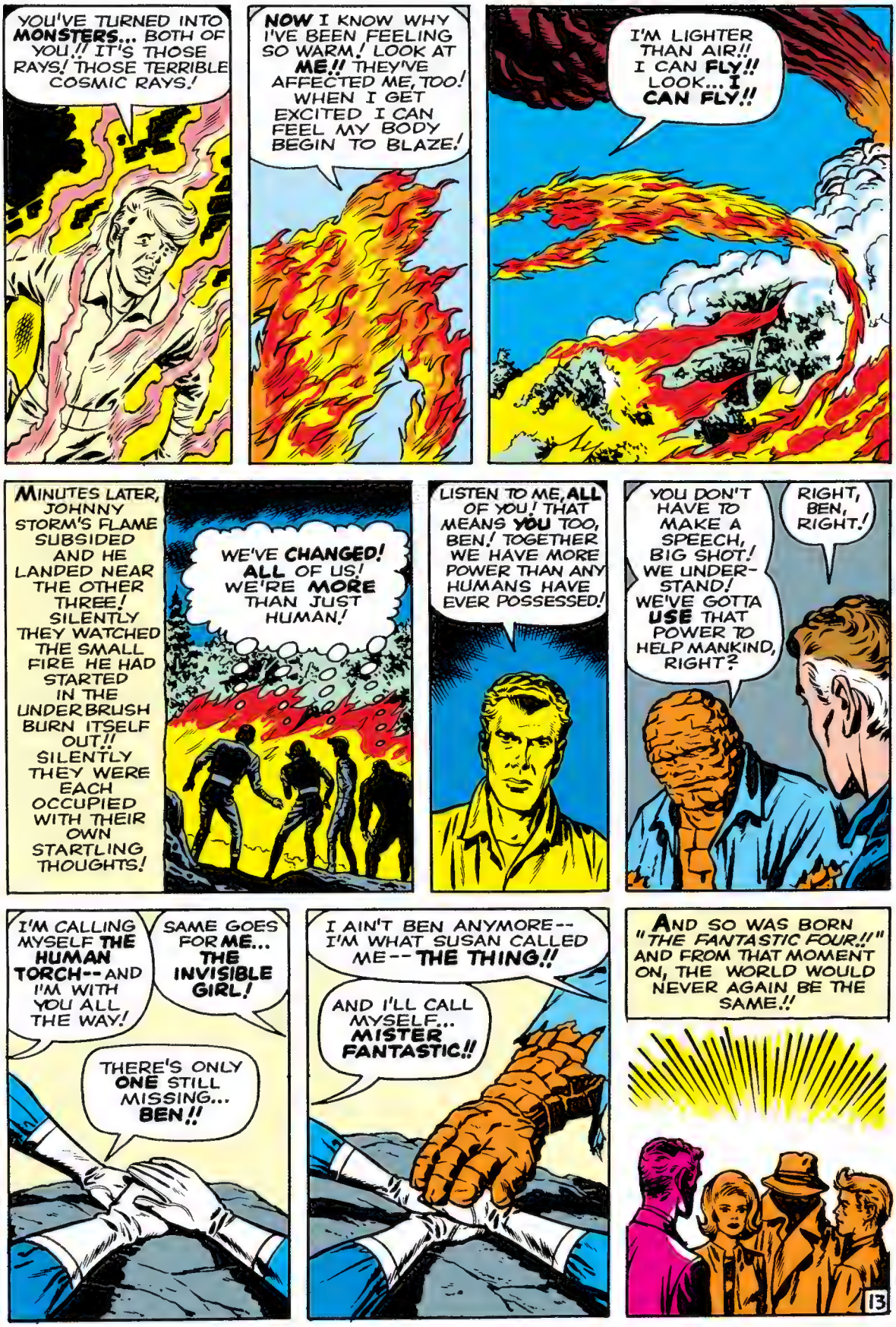

BEFORE THE GUARD CAN STOP THEM, THE MIGHTY SHIP WHICH REED RICHARDS HAD SPENT YEARS CONSTRUCTING IS SOARING INTO THE HEAVENS...TOWARDS OUTER SPACE!


SHE'S BEHAVING LIKE A BABY! EVERYTHING IS PERFECT!
YEAH, EXCEPT THE COSMIC RAYS! NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL DO...

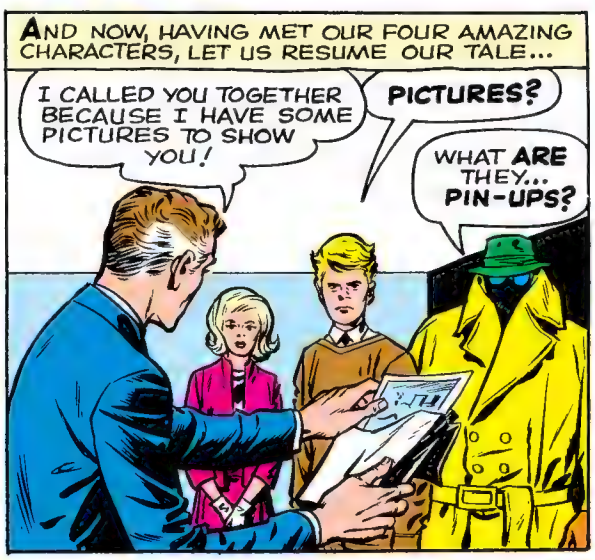

HIGHER AND HIGHER, LIKE A SILVER BULLET, ROARS THE SLEEK SPACE CRAFT...
WE HAD TO DO IT!! WE HAD TO BE THE FIRST!
BUT WE'RE REACHING THE COSMIC STORM AREA... HANG ON!
RAK TAC TAC TAC TAC
HEAR THAT?? IT'S THE COSMIC RAYS!! I--I WARNED YOU ABOUT 'EM!!
THEY'RE PENETRATING THE SHIP!! OUR SHIELDING ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH!
BUT I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!
NATURALLY! THEY'RE ONLY RAYS OF LIGHT! YOU CAN'T FEEL 'EM-- BUT THEY'LL AFFECT YOU JUST THE SAME!
MY HEAD!! IT--IT'S POUNDING AS THOUGH IT'S ABOUT TO BURST!!
BEN WAS RIGHT!! WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED... SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN HEAVIER SHIELDING!
JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
I DON'T KNOW, SIS! MY BODY FEELS HOT-- LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!! I-I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING UP!!
UGH!! LISTEN TO ME...
...SOMEBODY ELSE TAKE THE CONTROLS... I CAN'T HANDLE THE SHIP ANY MORE! MY-- MY ARMS ARE HEAVY--TOO HEAVY--CAN'T MOVE--TOO HEAVY--GOT TO LIE DOWN-- CAN'T MOVE!!
BEN!
10

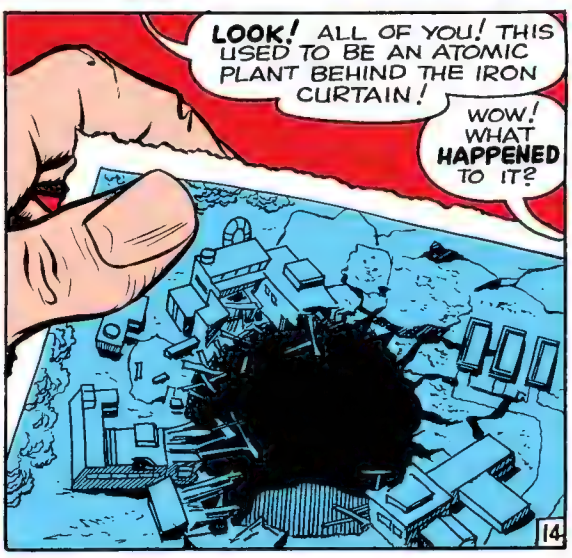

AT THAT MOMENT, THE POWERFUL SHIP'S AUTOMATIC PILOT TOOK OVER, AND MANAGED TO RETURN THE SLEEK ROCKET SAFELY TO EARTH, IN A ROUGH, BUT NON-FATAL LANDING!
I--I'M GRATEFUL WE'RE ALL ALIVE!! IT WAS MIGHTY CLOSE!
BUT, REED...WE FAILED!! AFTER ALL YOUR WORK... YOUR DEDICATION... WE FAILED!
BAH! WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?
BUT WE'RE STILL NOT COMPLETLY SAFE! WE STILL HAVE TO SEE WHETHER THE COSMIC RAYS AFFECTED US IN ANY WAY!
OH, REED... I FEEL SO STRANGE!
SUSAN! LOOK AT SUSAN!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'RE GASP FADING AWAY!!
OH, NO!! NO!!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SOMEHOW THE COSMIC RAYS HAVE ALTERED YOUR ATOMIC STRUCTURE... MAKING YOU GROW INVINSIBLE!
SIS! I CAN'T SEE YOU AT ALL ANY MORE!
HOW... HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?
THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING!!
WHA--WHAT IF SHE NEVER GETS VISIBLE AGAIN??
LOOK!! I SEE HER!
I'M MYSELF AGAIN! IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY... ALL BY ITSELF!
11

THANK HEAVENS!! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, MY DARLING!
ALL RIGHT, EH? HOW DO YOU KNOW, WISE GUY? HOW DO YOU KNOW SHE WON'T TURN INVISIBLE AGAIN? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE REST OF US?
BEN, I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR INSULTS... OF YOUR COMPLAINING! I DIDN'T PURPOSELY CAUSE OUR FLIGHT TO FAIL!
AND I'M SICK OF YOU... PERIOD! IN FACT, I'M GONNA PASTE YOU RIGHT IN THAT SMUG FACE OF YOURS!
BEN, STOP! WAIT!! LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU! YOU'RE--CHANGING!
DON'T TRY TO TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF IT, MISTER! I'M GONNA MOP UP THE PLACE WITH YOU!
RUN, REED DARLING! HE'S TURNED INTO A-- A-- SOME SORT OF A THING! HE'S STRONG AS AN OX!!
"REED DARLING"!! BAH! HOW CAN YOU CARE FOR THAT WEAKLING WHEN I'M HERE!?
I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT YOU LOVE THE WRONG MAN, SUSAN! I'LL-- HEY! WHAT--??!
NO, YOU DON'T!!
YOU'VE HAD THIS COMING TO YOU FOR A LONG TIME, BEN!
OH, REED... REED... NOT YOU, TOO!! NOT YOU, TOO!!
WHAT AM I DOING? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? TO ALL OF US?
12


YOU'VE TURNED INTO MONSTERS... BOTH OF YOU!! IT'S THOSE RAYS! THOSE TERRIBLE COSMIC RAYS!
NOW I KNOW WHY I'VE BEEN FEELING SO WARM! LOOK AT ME!! THEY'VE AFFECTED ME, TOO! WHEN I GET EXCITED I CAN FEEL MY BODY BEGIN TO BLAZE!
I'M LIGHTER THAN AIR!! I CAN FLY!! LOOK... I CAN FLY!!
MINUTES LATER, JOHNNY STORM'S FLAME SUBSIDED AND HE LANDED NEAR THE OTHER THREE! SILENTLY THEY WATCHED THE SMALL FIRE HE HAD STARTED IN THE UNDERBRUSH BURN ITSELF OUT!! SILENTLY THEY WERE EACH OCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN STARTLING THOUGHTS!
WE'VE CHANGED! ALL OF US! WE'RE MORE THAN JUST HUMAN!
LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! THAT MEANS YOU TOO, BEN! TOGETHER WE HAVE MORE POWER THAN ANY HUMANS HAVE EVER POSSESSED!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A SPEECH, BIG SHOT! WE UNDERSTAND! WE'VE GOTTA USE THAT POWER TO HELP MANKIND, RIGHT?
RIGHT, BEN, RIGHT!
I'M CALLING MYSELF THE HUMAN TORCH-- AND I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!
SAME GOES FOR ME... THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
THERE'S ONLY ONE STILL MISSING... BEN!!
I AIN'T BEN ANYMORE-- I'M WHAT SUSAN CALLED ME-- THE THING!!
AND I'LL CALL MYSELF... MISTER FANTASTIC!!
AND SO WAS BORN "THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!" AND FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE WORLD WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME!!
13

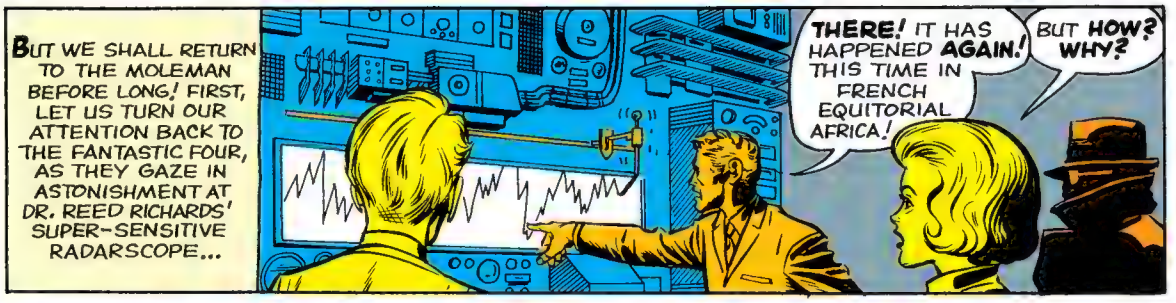
THE FANTASTIC FOUR MEET THE MOLE MAN!

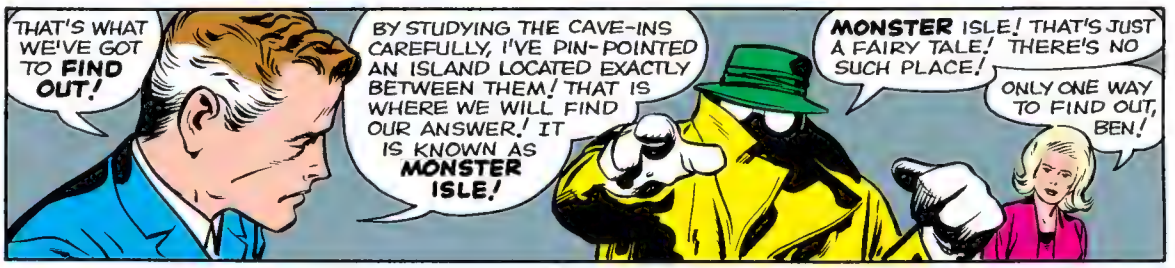

AND NOW, HAVING MET OUR FOUR AMAZING CHARACTERS, LET US RESUME OUR TALE...
I CALLED YOU TOGETHER BECAUSE I HAVE SOME PICTURES TO SHOW YOU!
PICTURES?
WHAT ARE THEY... PIN-UPS?

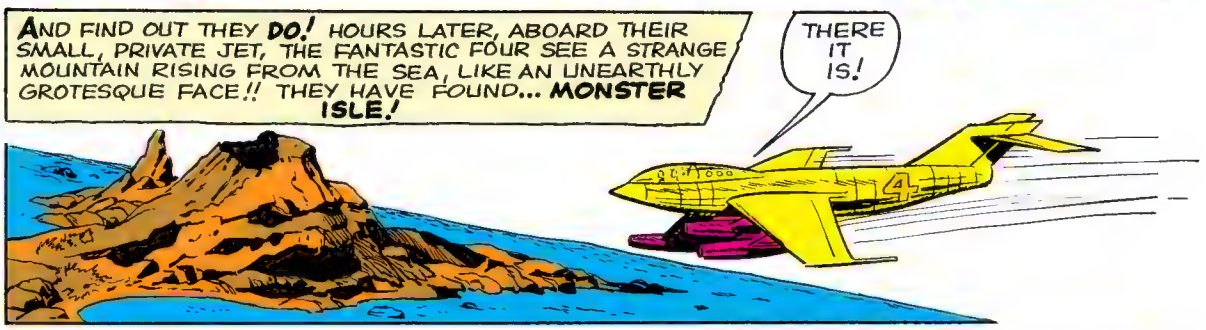


THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER ATOMIC PLANTS ON THOSE PHOTOS!
THIS ONE IS IN AUSTRALIA!
AND THIS IS IN SOUTH AMERICA!
THAT'S JUST IT! IT'S HAPPENING TO ATOMIC PLANTS ALL OVER THE WORLD! NO ONE KNOWS HOW--OR WHY!
WAIT!! ACCORDING TO THE STEADY IMPULSES ON MY RADAR MACHINE, ANOTHER CAVE-IN IS ABOUT DUE TO TAKE PLACE!!
AND, EVEN AS REED RICHARDS SPEAKS, HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, IN FRENCH AFRICA, THE FOLLOWING SCENE IS TAKING PLACE...
WHAT IS WRONG, PIERRE?
I DO NOT KNOW! IT SOUNDS INSANE, BUT THE SAND BENEATH MY FEET SEEMS TO BE THROBBING!
...ALMOST AS IF SOMETHING IS MOVING BELOW US! ALMOST AS IF... LISTEN! DON'T YOU FEEL IT??
RUMBLE RUMBLE
HELP!!
RUMBLE ROAR
IT IS AN EARTHQUAKE! BUT HERE IN THE DESERT?? IMPOSSIBLE!!
IMPOSSIBLE OR NOT, PIERRE ALMOST FELL TO HIS DOOM!
WAIT!! THE GROUND IS TREMBLING AGAIN!! WHAT CAN IT BE??
SACRE BLEU!! THE EARTH IS GOING MAD!!
ROOOOOMM
15

THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION!! IT--IT IS CAVING IN!
RRROOMM
BUT THE WORST IS YET TO COME!! FOR, LESS THAN THIRTY SECONDS LATER...
IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN!!
WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT INDEED?? IT IS A GIGANTIC PAIR OF CLAWS, THE LIKE OF WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN SEEN ON EARTH, OR ON ANY PLANET IN THE UNIVERSE!! IT IS UNBELIEVABLE... MIND STAGGERING... BUT REAL!
ARTILLERY!! BRING THE ARTILLERY!! HURRY! HURRY!
ARTILLERY! OF WHAT USE IS ARTILLERY AGAINST A CREATURE WHOSE HIDE IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DIG ITS WAY UP THRU COUTLESS TONS OF ROCK-HARD EARTH??
ARTILLERY! OF WHAT USE IS ARTILLERY AGAINST A MONSTER WHO CAN CRUSH A HEAVY TANK WITH ONE HAND??
BUT, JUST AS IT SEEMS THAT NOTHING IN THE WORLD WILL HALT THE NIGHTMARE MENACE, THE SHRILL SOUND OF A COMMANDING VOICE IS HEARD... AND THE GOLIATH STOPS IN ITS TRACKS!
ENOUGH! RETURN TO EARTH'S CORE! OUR MISSION HERE IS FINISHED! GO!!
FOR EVEN SUCH A MONSTER HEEDS ITS MASTER! A MASTER KNOWN AS... THE MOLEMAN!!
16


BUT WE SHALL RETURN TO THE MOLEMAN BEFORE LONG! FIRST, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AS THEY GAZE IN ASTONISHMENT AT DR. REED RICHARDS' SUPER-SENSITIVE RADARSCOPE...
THERE! IT HAS HAPPENED AGAIN! THIS TIME IN FRENCH EQUITORIAL AFRICA!
BUT HOW? WHY?


THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!
BY STUDYING THE CAVE-INS CAREFULLY, I'VE PIN-POINTED AN ISLAND LOCATED EXACTLY BETWEEN THEM! THAT IS WHERE WE WILL FIND OUR ANSWER! IT IS KNOWN AS MONSTER ISLE!
MONSTER ISLE! THAT'S JUST A FAIRY TALE! THERE'S NO SUCH PLACE!
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, BEN!


AND FIND OUT THEY DO! HOURS LATER, ABOARD THEIR SMALL, PRIVATE JET, THE FANTASTIC FOUR SEE A STRANGE MOUNTAIN RISING FROM THE SEA, LIKE AN UNEARTHLY GROTESQUE FACE!! THEY HAVE FOUND... MONSTER ISLE!
THERE IT IS!

LITTLE DREAMING WHAT AWAITS THEM, THEY CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE FORBIDDING PEAK...
IF THIS IS JUST A WILD GOOSE CHASE, MISTER, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU LIVE TO REGRET IT!
SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR THE CLIMB, GRUESOME!

HOLD IT!! I HEAR SOMETHING!!
IT'S COMING FROM BELOW!

LOOK!! THOSE EYES...

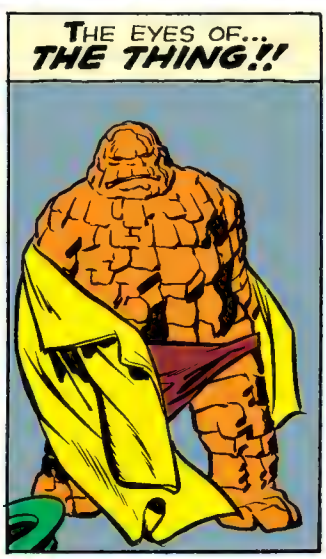
SUDDENLY, A LIVING THREE-HEADED NIGHTMARE HURLS ITSELF AT THEM FROM OVER THE EDGE OF THE PEAK OF MONSTER ISLE!
17

QUICK, SUE! TURN INVISIBLE!
SEEING ONE OF ITS INTENDED VICTIMS VANISH BEFORE ITS EYES, THE MONSTER HALTS... BEWILDERED!!
THERE'S JUST TIME FOR ME TO BECOME MR. FANTASTIC AGAIN! I'LL MAKE A HUGE LASSO OUT OF MY ARM!
GOT 'IM!!
I HAD HEARD THERE WAS A GIANT THREE-HEADED CREATURE GUARDING THIS ISLE... BUT HE SHALL GUARD IT NO LONGER!!
BUT BEFORE MR. FANTASTIC AND THE HUMAN TORCH CAN CATCH THEIR BREATH...
LOOK OUT!!
IT'S A CAVE-IN!
HOLD ON, JOHNNY! HOLD ON!
GULP! LUCKY SUE AND BEN WEREN'T WITH US AT THE EDGE!

FINALLY, THE AMAZING DUO FLOAT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT...
IT'S PITCH DARK!! WHAT SORT OF PLACE CAN IT BE?
REED! I FEEL SOMETHING!
IT'S A TRAP DOOR IN THE WALL!
IT'S MOVING!
THAT LIGHT!! WHERE DID IT COME FROM!
IT'S BLINDING! I CAN'T SEE!
I-I'M BLACKING OUT!
IT MIGHT BE MINUTES, OR HOURS LATER, WHEN THE TWO MEN REGAIN THEIR SENSES ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES GARBED IN STRANGE, ADHESIVE-TYPE SUITS WHICH PROTECT THEM FROM THE BLINDING, UNEARTHLY GLOW!
MY HEAD!!
THE LIGHT--IT ACTUALLY CAUSED US TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS! BUT HOW DID WE GET INTO THESE SUITS?
SO, YOU HAVE RECOVERED, HAVE YOU!! IT IS ABOUT TIME!!
WHO--WHO ARE YOU? I CAN'T SEE...
AND WHERE ARE WE?
THE REASON YOU CANNOT SEE IS... YOU ARE BLINDED BY THE GLARE FROM-- THE VALLEY OF DIAMONDS!!
--AND AS FOR ME-- I AM THE MOLEMAN!!
19

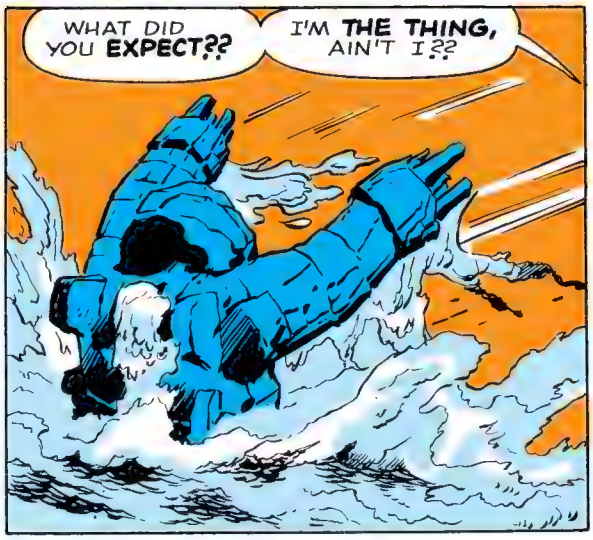
THE MOLEMAN'S SECRET!

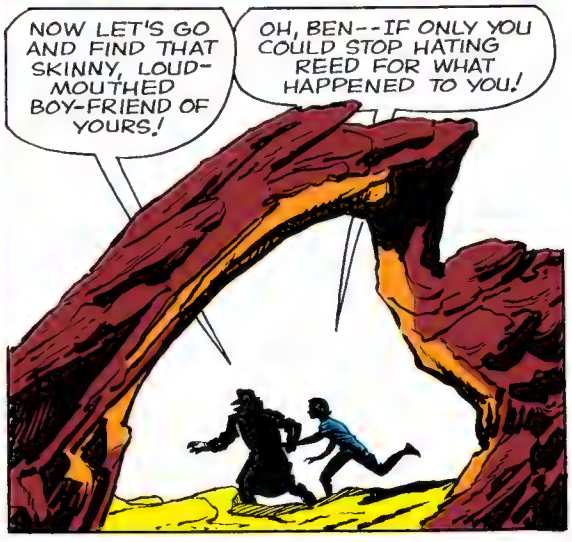
BEFORE WE WITNESS THE BREATH-TAKING CONCLUSION OF OUR AMAZING TALE, LET US GATHER TOGETHER ALL THE LOOSE ENDS! LET US RETURN TO THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHO DID NOT FALL BELOW DURING THE CAVE-IN...
REED... AND JOHNNY... GOT TO FIND THEM!!
WAIT! THAT NOISE--BEHIND ME!! WHAT--??

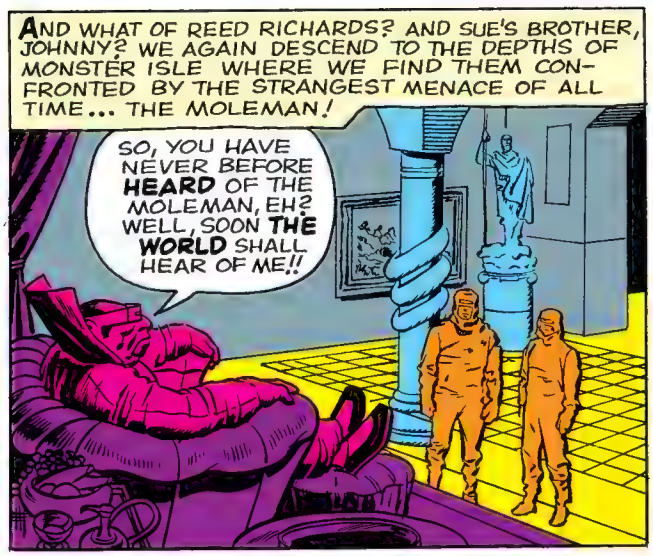


THE SECOND GIGANTIC GUARDIAN OF MONSTER ISLE IS POWERFUL BEYOND BELIEF... BUT HE IS FIGHTING AN ENEMY WHOSE EVERY ATOM HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH COSMIC RAYS... AN ENEMY WHO **CAN'T BE STOPPED!**

YOU'VE DONE IT, BEN! YOU'VE BEATEN HIM!


WHAT DID YOU **EXPECT??**
I'M **THE THING,** AIN'T I??


NOW LET'S GO AND FIND THAT SKINNY, LOUD-MOUTHED BOY-FRIEND OF YOURS!
OH, BEN--IF ONLY YOU COULD STOP HATING REED FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!

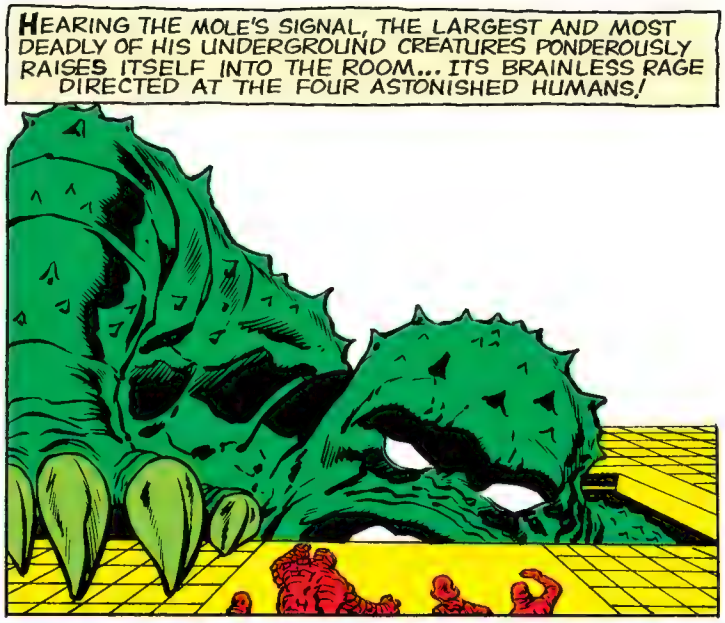

AND WHAT OF REED RICHARDS? AND SUE'S BROTHER, JOHNNY? WE AGAIN DESCEND TO THE DEPTHS OF MONSTER ISLE WHERE WE FIND THEM CONFRONTED BY THE STRANGEST MENACE OF ALL TIME... THE MOLEMAN!
SO, YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE **HEARD** OF THE MOLEMAN, EH? WELL, SOON **THE WORLD** SHALL HEAR OF ME!!

FOR SOON, THE MOLEMAN WILL HAVE THE ENTIRE WORLD IN HIS **POWER!**
HOW DID YOU **GET** HERE? WHAT **IS** THIS PLACE?

"IT ALL STARTED LONG AGO!! BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE WORLD MOCKED ME!"
WHAT? ME GO OUT WITH YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
I KNOW YOU'RE QUALIFIED, BUT YOU CAN'T WORK HERE! YOU'D SCARE OUR OTHER EMPLOYEES AWAY!
HEY, IS THAT YOUR FACE, OR ARE YOU WEARIN' A MASK? HAW HAW!
"FINALLY, I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER! I DECIDED TO STRIKE OUT ALONE...TO SEARCH FOR A NEW WORLD ...THE LEGENDARY LAND AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH! A WORLD WHERE I COULD BE KING! MY TRAVELS TOOK ME ALL OVER THE GLOBE..."
EVEN THIS LONELINESS IS BETTER THAN THE CRUELTY OF MY FELLOW MEN!
"AND THEN, JUST WHEN I HAD ALMOST ABANDONED HOPE... WHEN MY LITTLE SKIFF HAD BEEN WASHED ASHORE HERE ON MONSTER ISLE, I FOUND IT!"
THAT STRANGE CAVERN! WHERE CAN IT LEAD TO?
"I SOON SAW WHERE IT LED... IT LED TO THE LAND OF MY DREAMS..."
DOWN THERE... BELOW-- I'VE FOUND IT!! IT'S EARTH'S CENTER!
"BUT IN THE DREAD SILENCE OF THAT HUGE CAVERN, THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF MY LOUD OUTCRY CAUSED A VIOLENT AVALANCHE, AND..."
"...WHEN IT WAS OVER, I HAD SOMEHOW MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED THE FALL... BUT, DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE CRASH, I HAD LOST MOST OF MY SIGHT! YES, I HAD FOUND THE CENTER OF EARTH--BUT I WAS STRANDED HERE... LIKE A HUMAN MOLE!!
22

THAT WAS TO BE THE LAST OF MY MISFORTUNES! MY LUCK BEGAN TO TURN IN MY FAVOR! I MASTERED THE CREATURES DOWN HERE-- MADE THEM DO MY BIDDING-- AND WITH THEIR HELP, I CARVED OUT AN UNDER-GROUND EMPIRE!
A NOTE OF MADNESS CREEPS INTO THE MOLE'S VOICE AS HE SPEAKS OF HIS POWER! AND THEN, HE MAKES HIS FIRST FATAL MISTAKE...
I CONQUERED EVERYTHING ABOUT ME! I EVEN LEARNED TO SENSE THINGS IN THE DARK--LIKE A MOLE! HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU! TRY TO STRIKE ME WITH THAT POLE! TRY IT, I SAY!!
HAH! I SENSED THAT BLOW COMING! NOTHING CAN TAKE ME BY SURPRISE! AND, I HAVE DEVELOPED OTHER SENSES TOO, LIKE THOSE OF THE BAT--
I POSSESS A NATURAL RADAR SENSE... A WARNING SYSTEM WHICH ENABLES ME TO EVADE WHATEVER DANGER STRIKES AT ME!
COMPARED TO THE MOLE-MAN, YOU ARE SLOW... CLUMSY!! HAH HAH!!
SEE HOW EASILY I DEFEAT YOU... OR ANY OTHERS WHO TRY TO DEFY ME!
NOW, BEFORE I SLAY YOU ALL, BEHOLD MY MASTER PLAN! SEE THIS MAP OF MY UNDERGROUND EMPIRE! EACH TUNNEL LEADS TO A MAJOR CITY! AS SOON AS I HAVE WRECKED EVERY ATOMIC PLANT, EVERY SOURCE OF EARTHLY POWER, MY MIGHTY MOLE CREATURES WILL ATTACK AND DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT LIVES ABOVE THE SURFACE!
AND NOW, AT MY SIGNAL, THOSE CREATURES OF DARKNESS, MY DENIZENS OF EARTH'S CENTER, SHALL DISPOSE OF ALL OF YOU WITLESS INTRUDERS!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, MOLE!!
THE THING!!
23

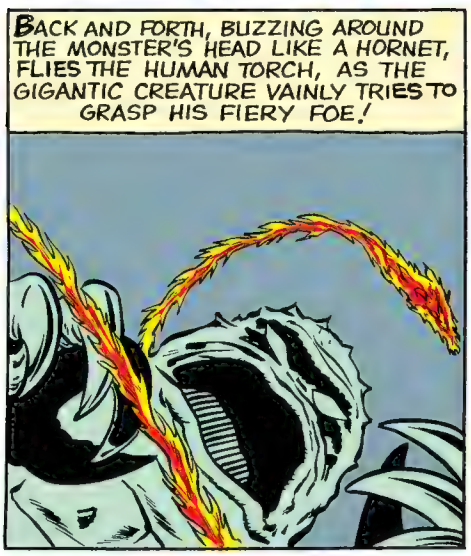
TOO LATE, FOOL! THE DIE IS CAST! THERE IS NO TURNING BACK!!
THING!! LOOK OUT... BEHIND YOU!
BONG! BONG!


HEARING THE MOLE'S SIGNAL, THE LARGEST AND MOST DEADLY OF HIS UNDERGROUND CREATURES PONDEROUSLY RAISES ITSELF INTO THE ROOM... ITS BRAINLESS RAGE DIRECTED AT THE FOUR ASTONISHED HUMANS!

AND THEN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR FLY INTO BLAZING ACTION...
LOOK OUT, REED! I'M GONNA BURN MY WAY OUTTA THIS MONKEY SUIT!

GOOD BOY, TORCH!

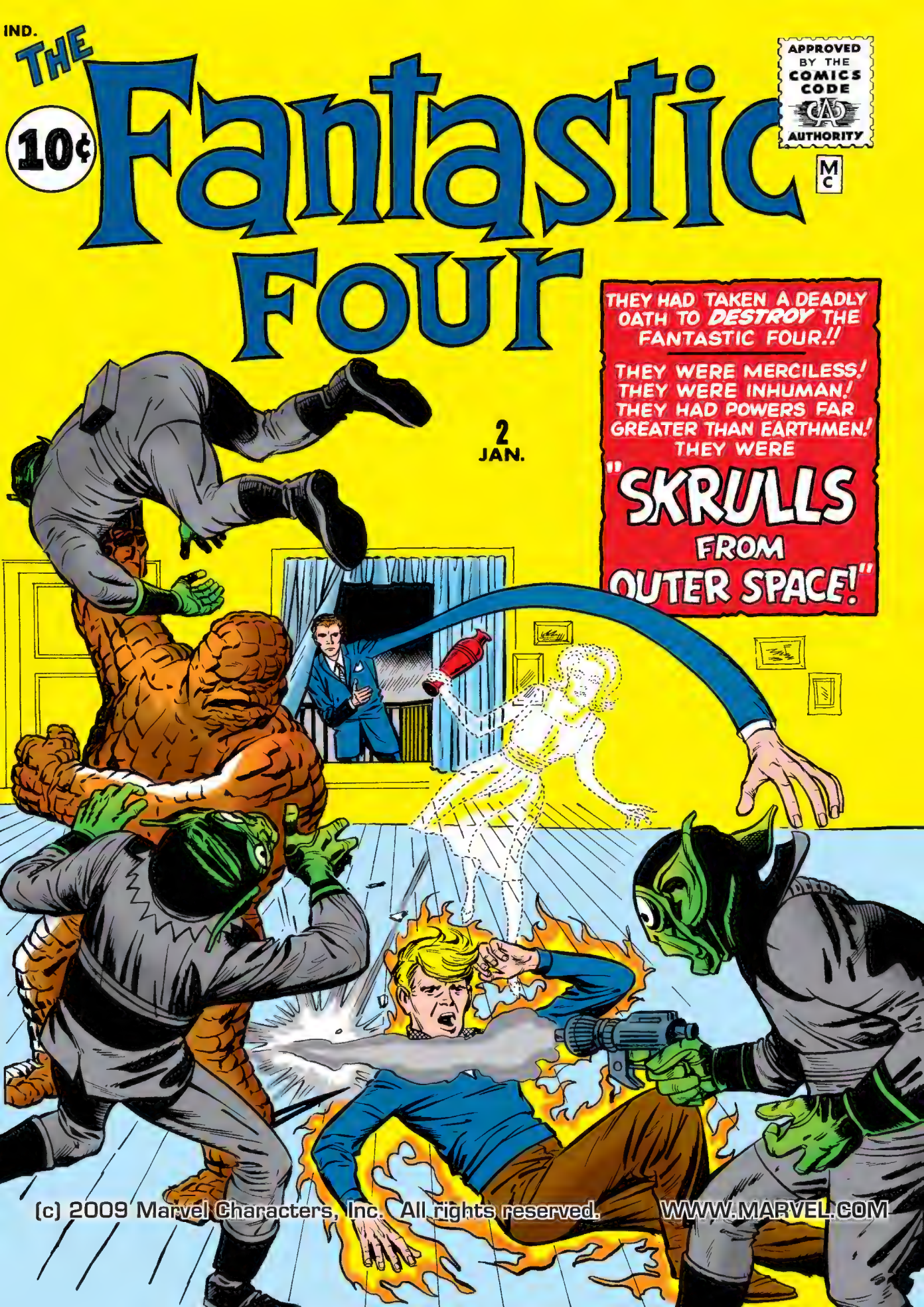
STAND ASIDE, GANG! IT'S GONNA GET MIGHTY WARM AROUND HERE!


BACK AND FORTH, BUZZING AROUND THE MONSTER'S HEAD LIKE A HORNET, FLIES THE HUMAN TORCH, AS THE GIGANTIC CREATURE VAINLY TRIES TO GRASP HIS FIERY FOE!

REED! THE MOLEMAN! HE'S ESCAPING!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT, SUE!

AND HELP IT I CAN!

MOVING LIKE A WELL-OILED FIGHTING MACHINE, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, WITH THE DEADLY MOLEMAN IN THEIR GRASP, RACE FOR THE SURFACE... BUT THEN THEIR EVIL ANTAGONIST SEIZES THE SIGNAL CORD AGAIN, AND...
YOU HAVEN'T WON YET! EVEN YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ALL OF MY UNDER-EARTH HORDE!
HURRY, REED... HURRY!
CAN'T YOU EVEN HOLD ON TO ONE LITTLE GUY?
AND THEN THEY COME... LIKE FIGMENTS OF A MAD NIGHTMARE... ROARING, RUNNING, SNARLING... THE MOLEMAN'S ENTIRE ARMY OF UNDERGROUND GARGOYLES!!
BUT THEY HADN'T COUNTED ON THE UNBELIEVABLE POWER OF THE HUMAN TORCH! FLYING BETWEEN HIS FANTASTIC ALLIES, AND THE PURSUING HORDE, HE BLAZES A FIERY SWATH WHICH MELTS THE SOFT EARTH...
THIS WILL CAUSE A ROCKSLIDE, SEALING US OFF FROM THOSE CREATURES!
WE DID IT... WE'RE FREE!! AND THE ENTRANCE TO THE MOLEMAN'S EMPIRE IS SEALED FOREVER!
MOMENTS LATER...
BUT WHERE IS THE MOLEMAN?
I LEFT HIM BEHIND--HE'LL NEVER TROUBLE ANYONE AGAIN!
AND THE WORDS OF MR. FANTASTIC ARE INDEED PROPHETIC... AS, SECONDS LATER...
HE'S DESTROYED THE ENTIRE ISLE! HE'S SEALED HIMSELF BELOW--FOREVER!
IT'S BEST THAT WAY! THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR HIM IN OUR WORLD ...PERHAPS HE'LL FIND PEACE DOWN THERE... I HOPE SO!
I JUST HOPE WE HAVE SEEN THE LAST OF HIM!
BUT, WHETHER WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THE MOLEMAN OR NOT, WE WILL SEE MUCH MORE OF THE MOST AMAZING QUARTET IN HISTORY, IN THE NEXT GREAT ISSUE OF-- THE FANTASTIC FOUR!! DON'T MISS IT!!
THE END
25


IND.
THE
10¢
Fantastic Four
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
2
JAN.
THEY HAD TAKEN A DEADLY OATH TO DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
THEY WERE MERCILESS! THEY WERE INHUMAN! THEY HAD POWERS FAR GREATER THAN EARTHMEN! THEY WERE
"SKRULLS FROM OUTER SPACE!"

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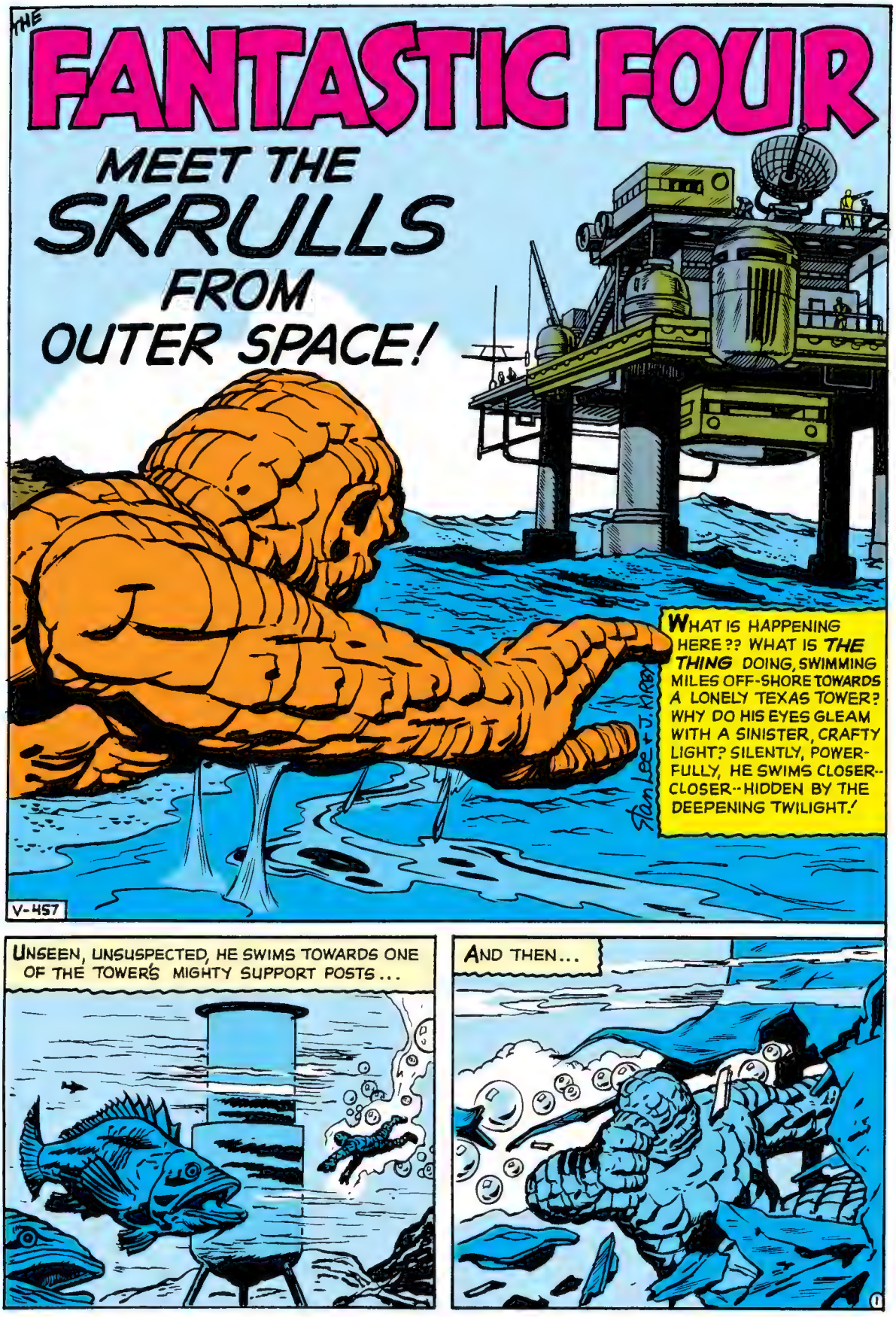
THE FANTASTIC FOUR
MEET THE SKRULLS FROM OUTER SPACE!
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?? WHAT IS THE THING DOING, SWIMMING MILES OFF-SHORE TOWARDS A LONELY TEXAS TOWER? WHY DO HIS EYES GLEAM WITH A SINISTER, CRAFTY LIGHT? SILENTLY, POWERFULLY, HE SWIMS CLOSER--CLOSER--HIDDEN BY THE DEEPENING TWILIGHT!
Stan Lee + J. Kirby
V-457
UNSEEN, UNSUSPECTED, HE SWIMS TOWARDS ONE OF THE TOWER'S MIGHTY SUPPORT POSTS...
AND THEN...

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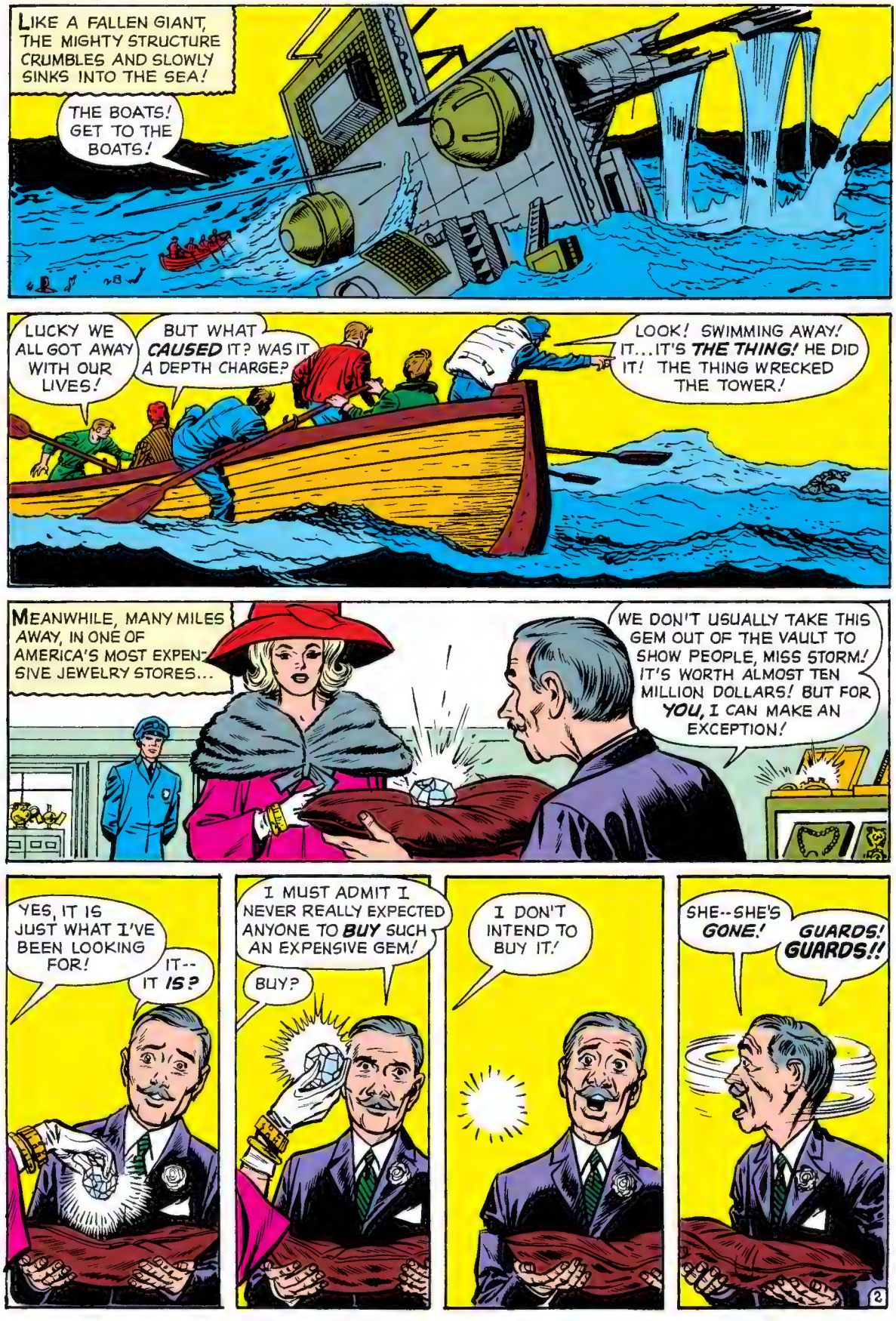

LIKE A FALLEN GIANT, THE MIGHTY STRUCTURE CRUMBLES AND SLOWLY SINKS INTO THE SEA!
THE BOATS! GET TO THE BOATS!
LUCKY WE ALL GOT AWAY WITH OUR LIVES!
BUT WHAT *CAUSED* IT? WAS IT A DEPTH CHARGE?
LOOK! SWIMMING AWAY! IT...IT'S *THE THING!* HE DID IT! THE THING WRECKED THE TOWER!
MEANWHILE, MANY MILES AWAY, IN ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST EXPENSIVE JEWELRY STORES...
WE DON'T USUALLY TAKE THIS GEM OUT OF THE VAULT TO SHOW PEOPLE, MISS STORM! IT'S WORTH ALMOST TEN MILLION DOLLARS! BUT FOR *YOU,* I CAN MAKE AN EXCEPTION!
YES, IT IS JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
IT-- IT *IS?*
I MUST ADMIT I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED ANYONE TO *BUY* SUCH AN EXPENSIVE GEM!
BUY?
I DON'T INTEND TO BUY IT!
SHE--SHE'S *GONE!*
GUARDS! GUARDS!!
2

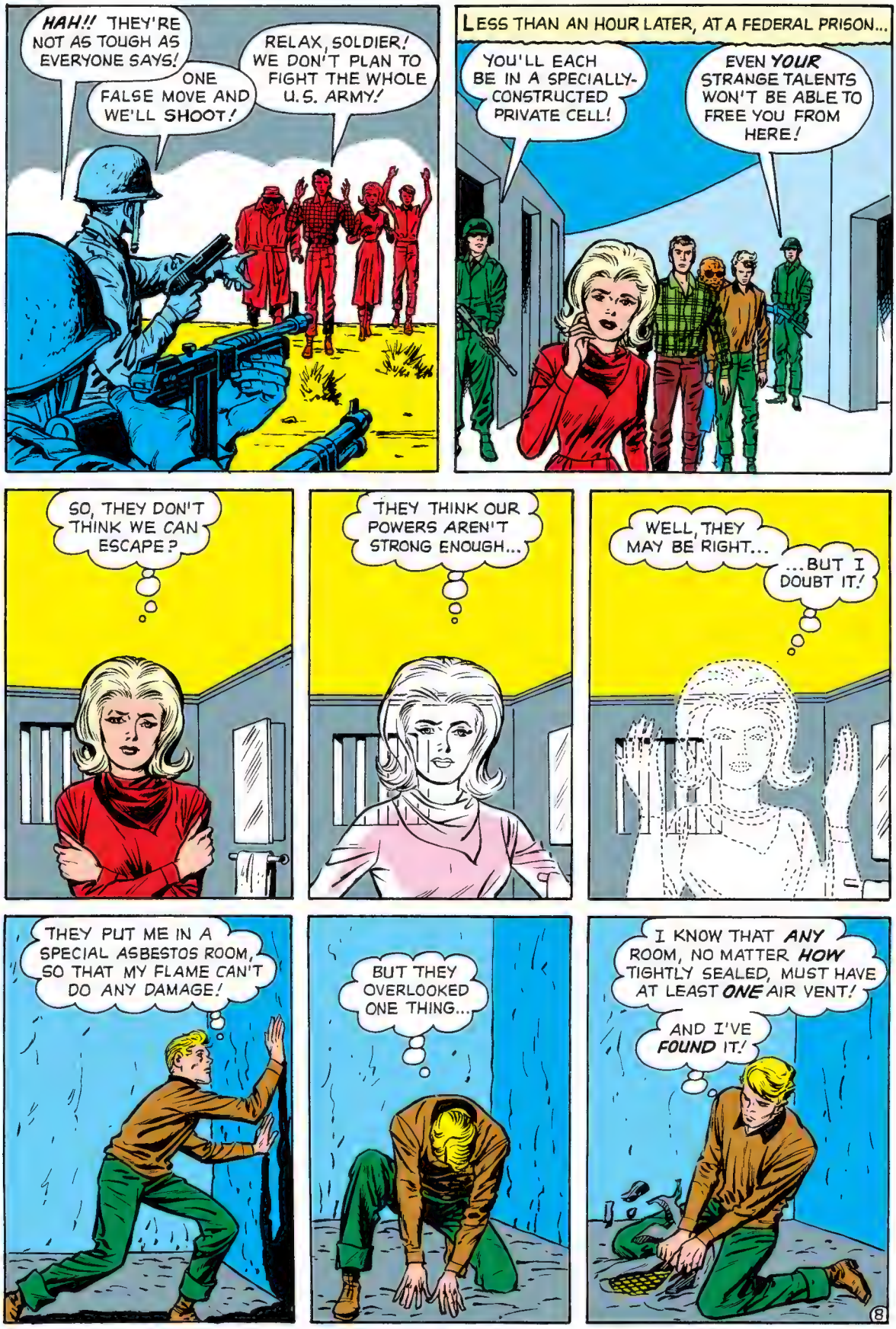
SHE MUST BE HERE, SIR! NO ONE WENT PAST US AT THE DOOR!
YOU FOOLS! OF COURSE SHE WENT PAST YOU!
THAT WAS SUSAN STORM--THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
HOW IN BLAZES CAN WE EVER CATCH HER?
AND IN THE MIDWEST, WE ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS ANOTHER FANTASTIC EVENT, DURING THE DEDICATION OF A GIGANTIC NEW MONUMENT...
THIS PRICELESS STATUE TOOK FIVE YEARS TO CARVE OUT OF SOLID MARBLE!
AND NOW...
LOOK! IN THE SKY!
IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!
HE'S GOING TO-- OH, NO! NO!!
HIS BLAZING BODY COMPLETELY MELTED THE STATUE!
HE--HE'S FLYING OFF-- LAUGHING!
BUT ONE FINAL DEED YET REMAINS TO BE DONE--AT A POWER PLANT! IN THE HEART OF THE CITY, A WORKMAN STARES AS HE SEES...
THAT ARM!! IT CAN ONLY BELONG TO MISTER FANTASTIC!
HE'S SWITCHING OFF ALL THE POWER IN THE CITY!!
IT IS DONE! THE CITY HAS BEEN PLUNGED INTO UTTER DARKNESS!
CAN WE BELIEVE OUR STARTLED EYES? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE REALLY PERPETRATED THOSE CRIMINAL ACTS? OR IS THERE MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE??

WE HAVE DONE OUR WORK WELL! WE HAVE SUCCEEDED!
YES! BY NOW THE ENTIRE NATION IS HUNTING THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THE ORDER IS OUT-- SHOOT ON SIGHT! THERE WILL BE NO PLACE TO HIDE!
I'VE BEEN WONDERING --HOW DID YOU ALL ACCOMPLISH YOUR FEATS?
ALTHOUGH THE ARMY THINKS IT WAS DONE BY BRUTE STRENGTH, I SECRETLY DEMOLISHED THE WATER TOWER BY MEANS OF THIS CONCEALED ELECTRONIC DETONATOR!
AS FOR ME, I QUICKLY CHANGED MY SIZE TO ONLY A FEW INCHES TALL-- BUT EVERYONE THOUGHT I HAD BECOME INVISIBLE!
MY TASK WAS AN EASY ONE! WITH THIS POWERED ANTI- GRAVITY GEAR AND A LOW VELOCITY THERMAL BOMB, I REALLY SEEMED TO BE A FLYING, FLAMING HUMAN!
AS FOR ME, I NEEDED NO SPECIAL DEVICES! FOR IT'S AN EASY MATTER FOR ME TO ALTER MY BODY IN ANY WAY I DESIRE!
JUST AS IT IS EASY FOR ALL OF US TO DO SO!
WHICH IS WHY THE UNSUSPECTING EARTHMEN WILL NEVER KNOW THAT WE SKRULLS HAVE IMPERSONATED THEIR FAMOUS FANTASTIC FOUR!
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR THE EARTHLINGS THEMSELVES TO HUNT DOWN AND DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
AND ONCE THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE SLAIN, NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STOP THE SKRULL INVASION!
EVEN NOW, OUR MOTHER SHIP HOVERS UNSEEN, ABOVE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, WAITING FOR OUR SIGNAL TO LAUNCH THE ATTACK!
AND THUS WE LEARN THE SECRETS OF THE INCREDIBLE FEATS WE HAVE SEEN! ABOVE US, THE SKRULLS FROM OUTER SPACE HAVE TURNED ALL EARTH AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
DAILY GLOBE
FANTASTIC FOUR DECLARED PUBLIC ENEMIES
HUNT WIDENS FOR MEMBERS OF STRANGE GROUP...
THE FANTA FOUR MUS
DAILY BUGLE
SHOOT TO KILL!
DRAGNET OUT FOR FANTASTIC FOUR!
4

WHILE MILES AWAY, IN AN ISOLATED HUNTING LODGE, THE MOST UNUSUAL HUMANS ON EARTH LEARN WHAT HAS HAPPENED...
... THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACE WE HAVE EVER FACED! THEY MUST BE FOUND! THEY MUST BE PUNISHED!
TURN THAT RADIO OFF! WE HAVE TO THINK!
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SOME FOURSOME IS IMPERSONATING US! BUT HOW? WHY?
BUT, REED, HOW COULD ANY HUMANS IMPERSONATE US? NO ONE ELSE HAS OUR POWERS!
AW, I'M NOT WORRIED! REED WILL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO, AND THEN WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM, I'LL BET!
BAH! WHILE THE THREE OF YOU BEAT YOUR GUMS, THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS HUNTING US AS THOUGH WE'RE FOUR MONSTERS!
WELL, MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT! MAYBE I AM A MONSTER! I LOOK LIKE ONE--AND SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE ONE!
BUT NOBODY'S CATCHIN' ME WITHOUT A FIGHT! IF THEY SAY I'M A MENACE, I'LL BE A MENACE! I'LL SHOW 'EM ALL!
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO TO ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY!
REED! STOP HIM! HE'S GOING MAD!
CRASH!
EASY, THING, EASY! WE CAN'T FIGHT THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE!
FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S BEHIND THIS PLAN TO DISCREDIT US!
5

TALK! TALK! ALL YOU EVER DO IS TALK! BUT I'M NOT BUILT THAT WAY! I WANT ACTION!
I KNOW YOU DO, THING! BUT WE CAN'T FLY OFF THE HANDLE! WE'VE GOT TO WAIT TILL WE KNOW WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS!
WAIT?? THAT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU, TORCH! AT LEAST YOU'RE HUMAN!
BUT HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ME? I WON'T WAIT ANY LONGER! I'M GOING OUT...
...TO FIGHT! ...TO SMASH!
REED, HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS CAN WE TAKE! SOONER OR LATER, THE THING WILL RUN AMOK AND NONE OF US WILL BE ABLE TO STOP HIM!
SHE'S RIGHT, REED! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM!
NO! WE MUST BE PATIENT! AFTER ALL, HE'S NOT REALLY TO BLAME! IT'S ACTUALLY MY FAULT THAT HE IS THE WAY HE IS!
"IT WAS MY FAULT THAT OUR FLIGHT TO MARS FAILED AND WE NEARLY LOST OUR LIVES WHEN WE CRASH-LANDED ON EARTH!...
"IT WAS MY FAULT THAT THE COSMIC RAYS OF SPACE TURNED SUE INTO A SOMETIMES INVISIBLE GIRL!...
"...THE SAME RAYS WHICH MADE A POWERFUL, BRUTAL THING OUT OF POOR BEN! ...
"IT WAS BECAUSE OF MY OVERSIGHT THAT JOHNNY WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A TEMPORARY HUMAN TORCH BY THOSE FANTASTIC RAYS!...
"WHILE THE COMPOSITION OF MY OWN BODY ATOMS HAS BEEN SO CHANGED THAT I CAN STRETCH AND CHANGE MYSELF INTO ALMOST ANY CONCEIVABLE SHAPE!"
I CAN'T PUNISH THE THING WHEN THE FAULT IS MINE!
OKAY, FORGET HIM! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
6

PART 2
PRISONER OF THE SKRULLS
EVEN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR PONDER THEIR NEXT MOVE, GRIM, SILENT FIGURES STEALTHILY CREEP TOWARD THEIR CABIN -- LIKE A HORDE OF AVENGING WRAITHS!
V-457
THE FIRST THING WE MUST DO IS LEARN WHO IS IMPERSONATING US!
AND WHY!
AND THEN WE'LL PULVERIZE 'EM!
ATTENTION!! FANTASTIC FOUR!! WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED!
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP, OR WE'LL FIRE!
7


HAH!! THEY'RE NOT AS TOUGH AS EVERYONE SAYS!
ONE FALSE MOVE AND WE'LL SHOOT!
RELAX, SOLDIER! WE DON'T PLAN TO FIGHT THE WHOLE U.S. ARMY!
LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER, AT A FEDERAL PRISON...
YOU'LL EACH BE IN A SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED PRIVATE CELL!
EVEN YOUR STRANGE TALENTS WON'T BE ABLE TO FREE YOU FROM HERE!
SO, THEY DON'T THINK WE CAN ESCAPE?
THEY THINK OUR POWERS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH...
WELL, THEY MAY BE RIGHT...
...BUT I DOUBT IT!
THEY PUT ME IN A SPECIAL ASBESTOS ROOM, SO THAT MY FLAME CAN'T DO ANY DAMAGE!
BUT THEY OVERLOOKED ONE THING...
I KNOW THAT ANY ROOM, NO MATTER HOW TIGHTLY SEALED, MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE AIR VENT!
AND I'VE FOUND IT!
8

EVERY INCH OF THIS CELL IS MADE OF THICK BATTLE-SHIP STEEL!
THEY'RE NOT TAKIN' ANY CHANCES WITH ME!
BUT ANYTHING WILL GIVE IF YOU HAMMER AT IT LONG ENOUGH...
BAM!
...IN THE EXACT SAME PLACE WITH ENOUGH FORCE!
BAM!
AND FORCE IS ONE THING I'VE GOT PLENTY OF!
BAM!
THE CELL IS COMPLETELY EMPTY!
THEY'RE AFRAID I MIGHT MAKE A WEAPON OF ANY ARTICLES I FIND!
BUT I NEED NO SPECIAL WEAPONS! MY BODY IS WEAPON ENOUGH!
ALL I NEED DO IS HAVE MY SENSITIVE FINGERS PROBE EVERY INCH OF FLOOR AND WALL...
...UNTIL I FIND ONE SMALL IMPERFECTION, NO MATTER HOW TINY! A LOOSE RIVET... A TINY CRACK... ANYTHING!
LATER, AT THE INVISIBLE GIRL'S CELL...
HERE'S YOUR DINNER, MISS STORM!
WH-WHERE IS SHE??
MP
MP
HEY!! WHA--?
SOMETHING JUST PUSHED PAST US!
FWEEET!
9

AND AT THAT MOMENT, ALL PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE...
THAT ONE SMALL AIR VENT WAS ALL I NEEDED TO BURST INTO FLAMES! AND NOW...
EVEN STEEL WILL SHATTER IF YOU POUND AT IT LONG ENOUGH! AND I NEVER GET TIRED!
ONE SIDE, SOLDIER BOYS, BEFORE I TRAMPLE ON YA!
JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR...
...A LOOSE RIVET!
THIS ELASTIC BODY OF MINE IS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE! NO CELL CAN HOLD ME FOR LONG!
YOU! HALT!
THEY SPOTTED ME! NOW IT'S UP TO THE TORCH!
QUICK! GRAB THAT WHIRLYBIRD OVER THERE! I'LL HOLD 'EM OFF TILL YOU'RE AIRBORNE!
I KNEW WE COULD DO IT!
BAH! I'D RATHER STAY AND FIGHT!
WE DID IT!... WE'RE FREE!
YES, BUT--FOR HOW LONG?
10

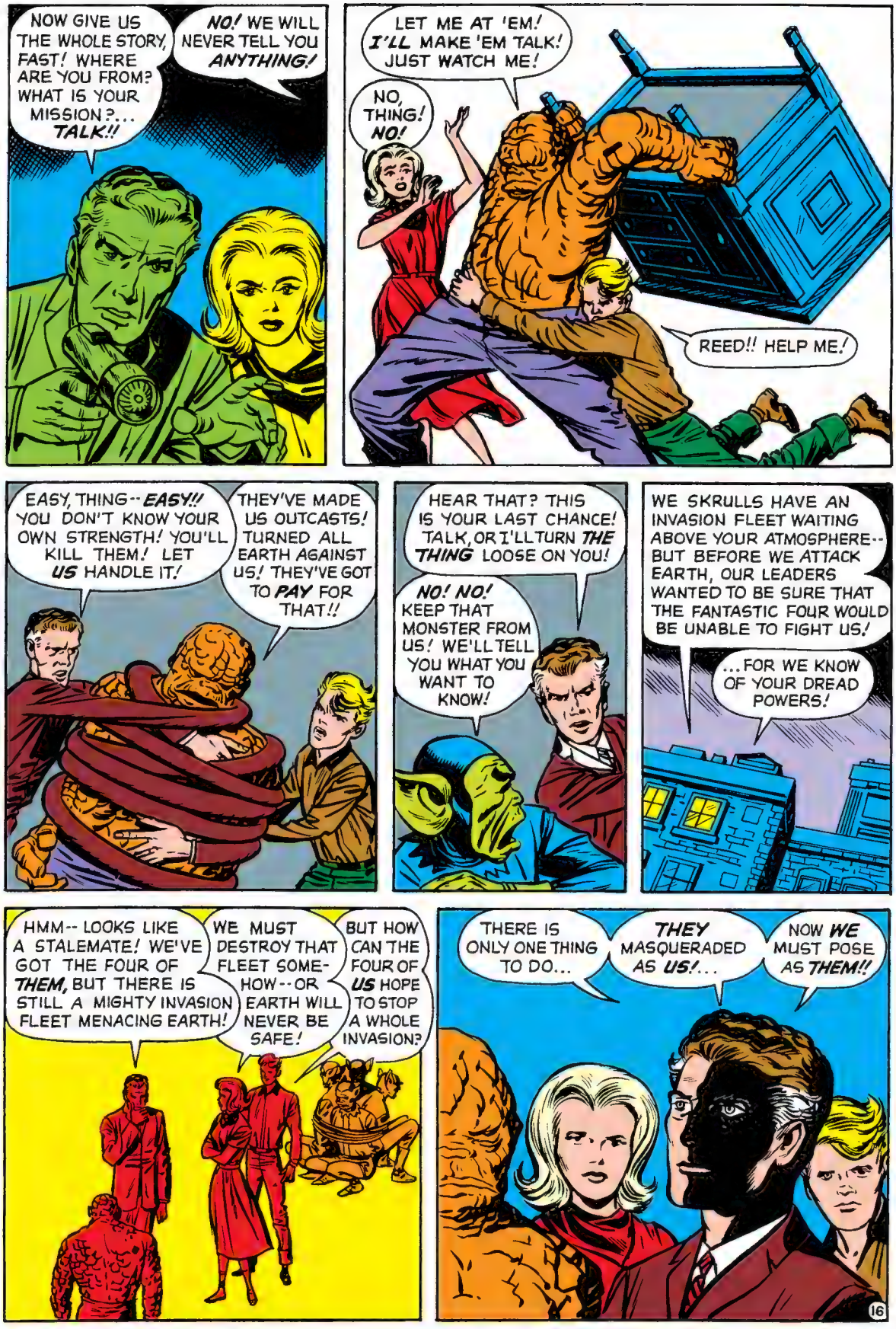
NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, AT ONE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S MANY SECRET APARTMENT HIDEOUTS...
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT OUR FIRST STEP IS TO SET A TRAP--TO CATCH THE FOUR MYSTERIOUS CHARACTERS WHO ARE IMPERSONATING US!
I GUESS I'M THE BEST ONE TO DO THAT, REED!
YOU??
I DON'T BELIEVE IN SENDIN' A KID TO DO A MAN'S JOB! IF ANYONE SETS TRAPS, IT'LL BE ME!
AW, SHUT UP AND LET US THINK, WILL YA?
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO! I'VE GOT AN IDEA! TAKE A LOOK AT TODAY'S NEWSPAPER!
DAILY GLOBE
NEW ROCKET TO BE TESTED
HEY! I GOT IT! OUR FOUR IMITATORS MAY GET CONFUSED IF ONE OF US TRIES TO SABOTAGE THAT ROCKET SITE! THEY MAY THINK IT'S ONE OF THEM, AND REVEAL THEMSELVES!
I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!
WHO SAID YOU WERE GONNA TACKLE THAT JOB?
I SAID SO!
ANY OBJECTIONS?
UGHH!
FLAME OFF, TORCH! AND BACK AWAY, THING! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES!
IF HE EVER LOSES THAT FLAME OF HIS, I'LL--

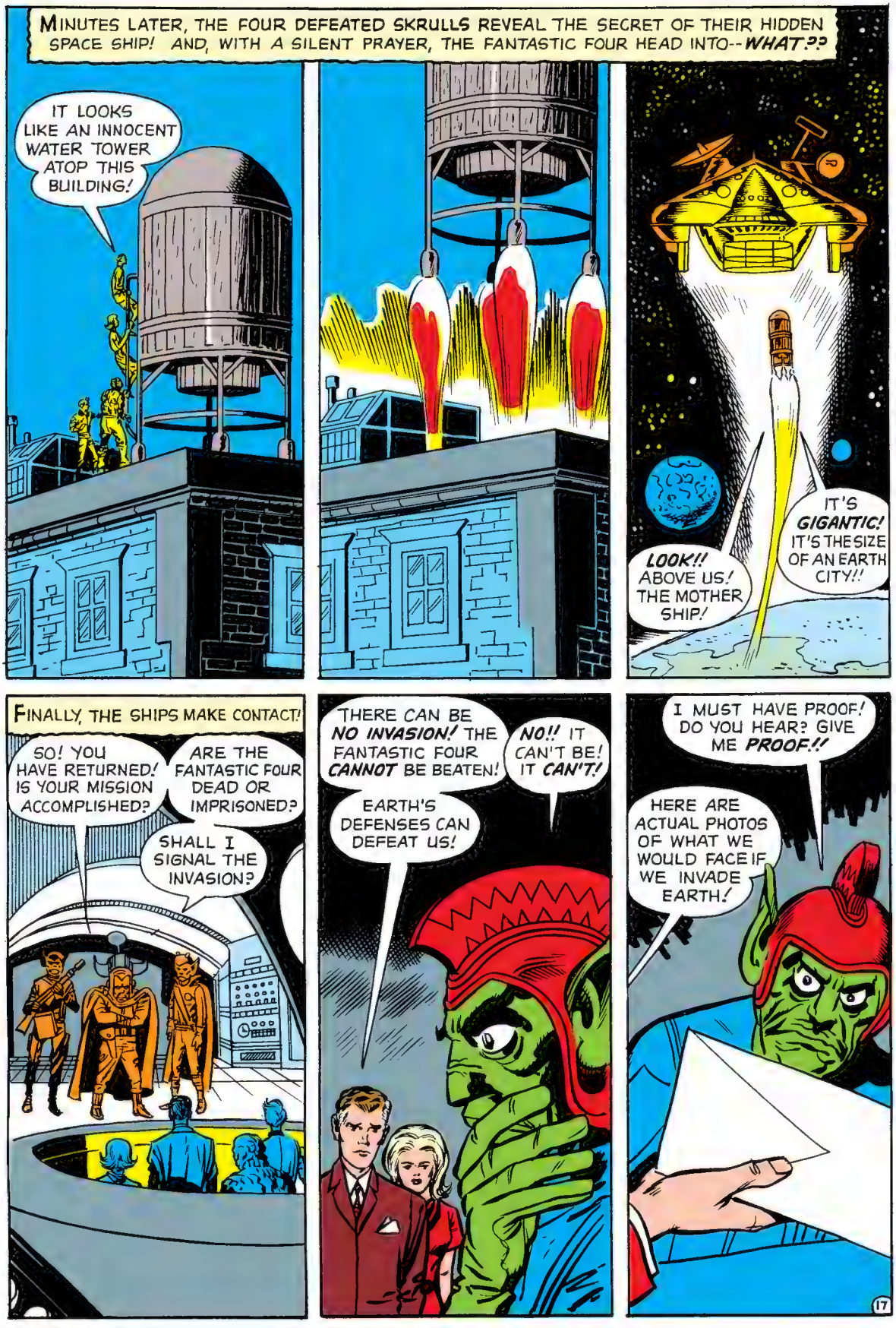
THING, I UNDERSTAND HOW BITTER YOU ARE--AND I KNOW YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE BITTER!! BUT WE'LL JUST DESTROY OURSELVES IF WE KEEP AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS THIS WAY! DON'T YOU SEE?
I SEE...
...AND SOMETIMES... I THINK I'D BE BETTER OFF -- THE WORLD WOULD BE BETTER OFF-- IF I WERE DESTROYED!
AW, FORGET IT, THING! I'M NOT HOLDIN' ANY GRUDGES!
LISTEN, GANG! I'LL ATTACK THAT ROCKET AND HOPE THAT OUR IMITATORS WILL ATTACK ME! THEN WATCH FOR MY SIGNAL!
AND SO, A SHORT TIME LATER...
CLEAR THE FIELD!
EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS!
WHA--WHAT'S THAT FLASH IN THE SKY?
WHERE?
OVER THERE!
MELTING THROUGH THAT UNFINISHED LAUNCHING PLATFORM OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!
IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH! HE'S ATTACKING OUR LAUNCHING SITE!
HE'S TOO FAST-- TOO LOW! OUR GUNS CAN'T TRACK HIM!
12

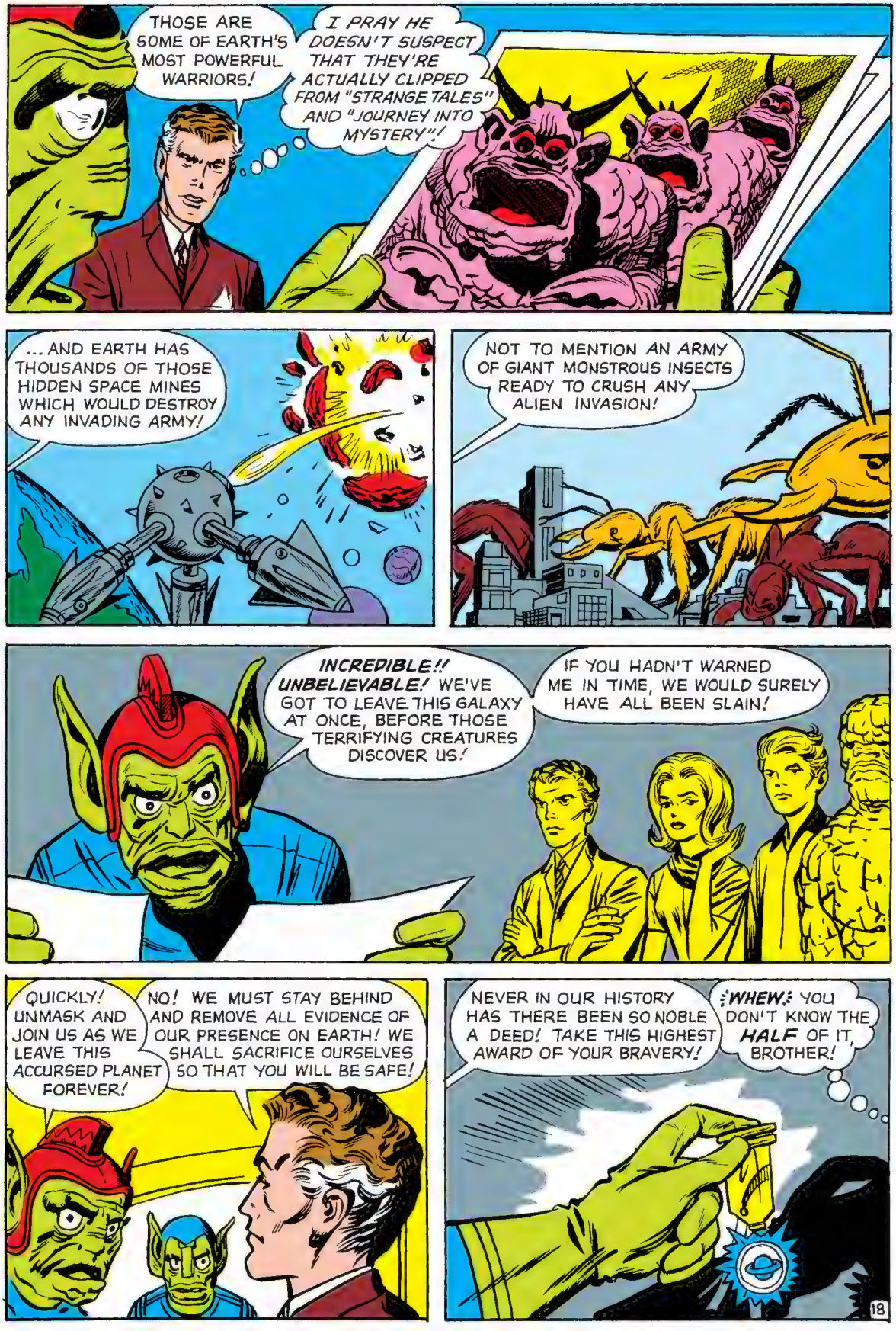
WITHIN SECONDS, THE HUMAN TORCH COMES FROM BEHIND A CONCEALING HANGAR, SNAPS OFF HIS FLAME, AND..
IT'S NOW OR NEVER! IF THOSE IMITATORS ARE ANYWHERES AROUND--
THERE HE IS!
TORCH! QUICK! INTO THE CAR!
KNOWING HE IS TAKING HIS LIFE INTO HIS HANDS, JOHNNY STORM ENTERS THE WAITING CAR AND SEES...
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR YOU WERE SUSAN STORM AND REED RICHARDS, TWO OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
WELL, THAT'S WHO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE, ISN'T IT?
MINUTES LATER, AT THE ALIENS' HEADQUARTERS...
YOU FOOLS! WHY DID YOU BRING HIM? HE IS THE REAL HUMAN TORCH!
BUT WE THOUGHT--
YOU THOUGHT WHAT I WANTED YOU TO THINK!
NOW THAT YOU SEE WE ARE NOT OF YOUR PLANET EARTH, YOU CAN NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE!
MISTER, NO MATTER WHAT PLANET YOU'RE FROM, I'M STILL GONNA BE TOO HOT FOR YOU TO HANDLE!
STOP HIM! HE HAS A FLARE GUN!
TOO LATE!
THERE!! NOW WHEN THE OTHERS SEE MY SIGNAL, YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD STAYED WHERE YOU CAME FROM!
4
13

WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE OTHERS, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT YOU THREE STAY PUT!
HE'S SURROUNDING US WITH A RING OF FLAME!
WE'RE TRAPPED!
NO! YOU'RE NOT TRAPPED YET!
IT'S THE FOURTH ALIEN! THE ONE WHO IMPERSONATED ME!
WITH THE AID OF THE CHEMICAL CYLINDER WHICH I HAVE STRAPPED UNDER MY SHIRT, I, TOO, CAN BURST INTO FLAME!
LOOK OUT! WE'RE GONNA COLLIDE!
I KNOW! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STOP YOU!
THERE! IT WILL BE A FEW MINUTES BEFORE HE CAN FLAME ON AGAIN!
THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE WILL NEED!
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WARN EARTH ABOUT US NOW!
YEAH? SEZ WHO?
THE THING!
HE STILL ISN'T IN TIME TO SAVE YOU, TORCH! NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW!
14

THE FANTASTIC FOUR
FIGHT BACK!
LET GO OF THAT WEAPON!
:WHEW: NOW I KNOW HOW THE OLD INDIAN FIGHTERS FELT WHEN THE CAVALRY ARRIVED!
NEVER THOUGHT WE'D TRACK YA DOWN, DID YA??
V-457
I MUST ESCAPE!... MUST WARN THE OTHERS!
TSK! TSK! DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S IMPOLITE TO RUSH PAST A LADY?
ALL RIGHT, PLAYMATES, THAT WRAPS IT UP! ONE WRONG MOVE FROM ANY OF YOU AND IT'LL BE YOUR LOSS!
NO WONDER OUR LEADERS DARE NOT INVADE EARTH UNTIL THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE STOPPED!
15

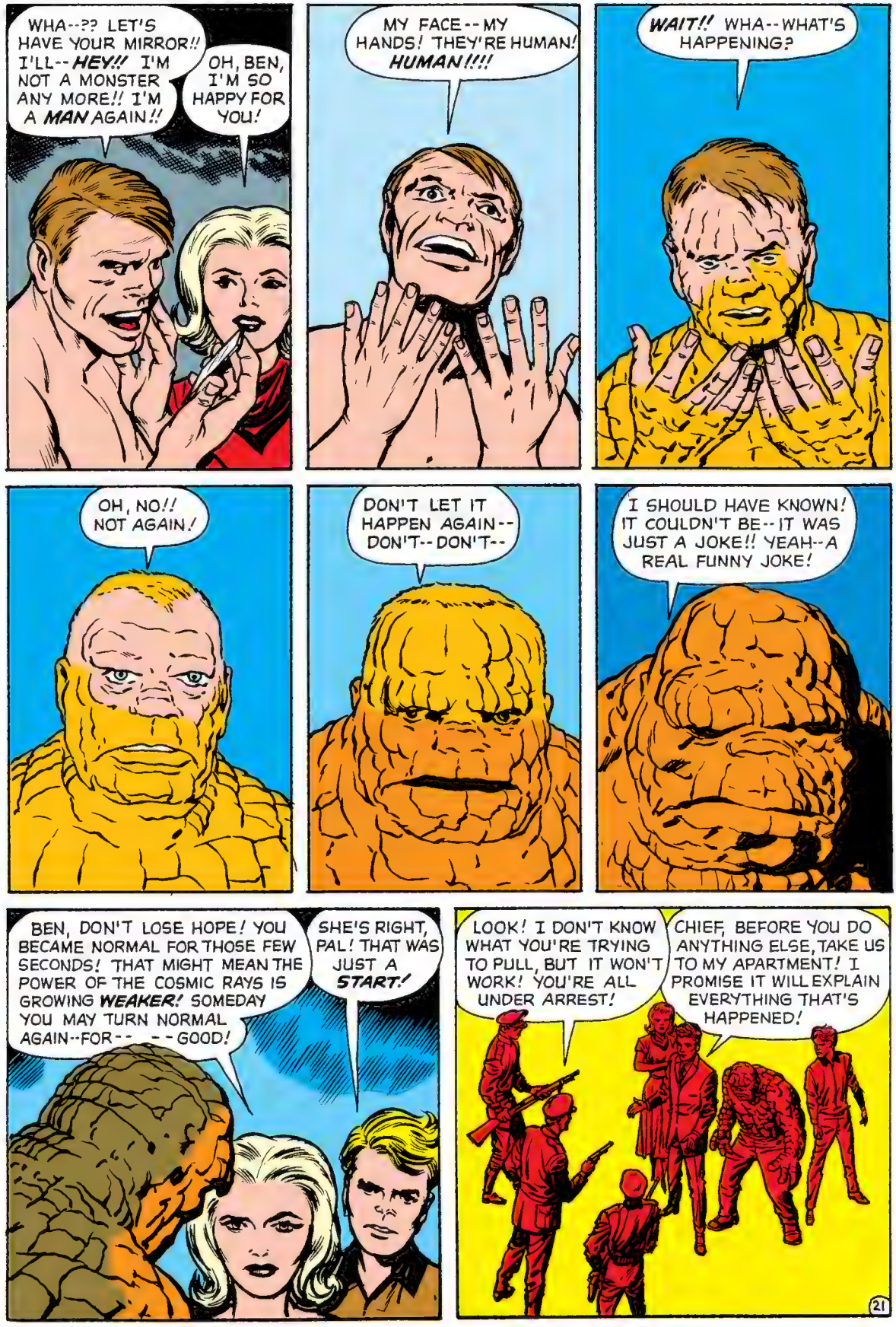

NOW GIVE US THE WHOLE STORY, FAST! WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WHAT IS YOUR MISSION?... TALK!!
NO! WE WILL NEVER TELL YOU ANYTHING!
LET ME AT 'EM! I'LL MAKE 'EM TALK! JUST WATCH ME!
NO, THING! NO!
REED!! HELP ME!
EASY, THING--EASY!! YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN STRENGTH! YOU'LL KILL THEM! LET US HANDLE IT!
THEY'VE MADE US OUTCASTS! TURNED ALL EARTH AGAINST US! THEY'VE GOT TO PAY FOR THAT!!
HEAR THAT? THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! TALK, OR I'LL TURN THE THING LOOSE ON YOU!
NO! NO! KEEP THAT MONSTER FROM US! WE'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!
WE SKRULLS HAVE AN INVASION FLEET WAITING ABOVE YOUR ATMOSPHERE--BUT BEFORE WE ATTACK EARTH, OUR LEADERS WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR WOULD BE UNABLE TO FIGHT US!
...FOR WE KNOW OF YOUR DREAD POWERS!
HMM-- LOOKS LIKE A STALEMATE! WE'VE GOT THE FOUR OF THEM, BUT THERE IS STILL A MIGHTY INVASION FLEET MENACING EARTH!
WE MUST DESTROY THAT FLEET SOMEHOW--OR EARTH WILL NEVER BE SAFE!
BUT HOW CAN THE FOUR OF US HOPE TO STOP A WHOLE INVASION?
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
THEY MASQUERADED AS US!...
NOW WE MUST POSE AS THEM!!
16


MINUTES LATER, THE FOUR DEFEATED SKRULLS REVEAL THE SECRET OF THEIR HIDDEN SPACE SHIP! AND, WITH A SILENT PRAYER, THE FANTASTIC FOUR HEAD INTO--WHAT?!?
IT LOOKS LIKE AN INNOCENT WATER TOWER ATOP THIS BUILDING!
LOOK!! ABOVE US! THE MOTHER SHIP!
IT'S GIGANTIC! IT'S THE SIZE OF AN EARTH CITY!!
FINALLY, THE SHIPS MAKE CONTACT!
SO! YOU HAVE RETURNED! IS YOUR MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?
ARE THE FANTASTIC FOUR DEAD OR IMPRISONED?
SHALL I SIGNAL THE INVASION?
THERE CAN BE NO INVASION! THE FANTASTIC FOUR CANNOT BE BEATEN!
NO!! IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T!
EARTH'S DEFENSES CAN DEFEAT US!
I MUST HAVE PROOF! DO YOU HEAR? GIVE ME PROOF!!
HERE ARE ACTUAL PHOTOS OF WHAT WE WOULD FACE IF WE INVADE EARTH!
17


THOSE ARE SOME OF EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL WARRIORS!
I PRAY HE DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT THEY'RE ACTUALLY CLIPPED FROM "STRANGE TALES" AND "JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY"!
...AND EARTH HAS THOUSANDS OF THOSE HIDDEN SPACE MINES WHICH WOULD DESTROY ANY INVADING ARMY!
NOT TO MENTION AN ARMY OF GIANT MONSTROUS INSECTS READY TO CRUSH ANY ALIEN INVASION!
INCREDIBLE!! UNBELIEVABLE! WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE THIS GALAXY AT ONCE, BEFORE THOSE TERRIFYING CREATURES DISCOVER US!
IF YOU HADN'T WARNED ME IN TIME, WE WOULD SURELY HAVE ALL BEEN SLAIN!
QUICKLY! UNMASK AND JOIN US AS WE LEAVE THIS ACCURSED PLANET FOREVER!
NO! WE MUST STAY BEHIND AND REMOVE ALL EVIDENCE OF OUR PRESENCE ON EARTH! WE SHALL SACRIFICE OURSELVES SO THAT YOU WILL BE SAFE!
NEVER IN OUR HISTORY HAS THERE BEEN SO NOBLE A DEED! TAKE THIS HIGHEST AWARD OF YOUR BRAVERY!
WHEW! YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, BROTHER!
18

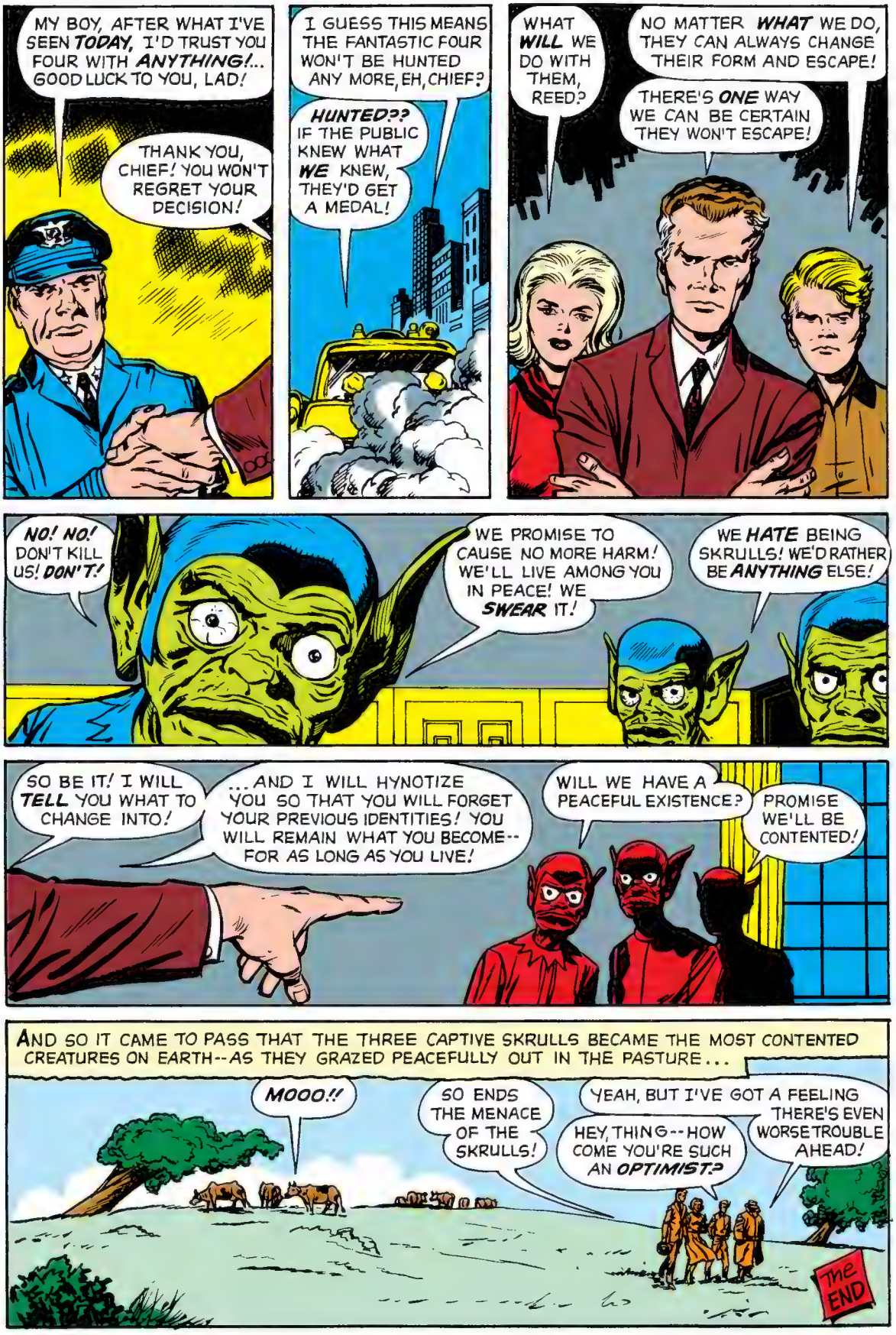
MOMENTS LATER, THE MIGHTY STAR SHIP LEAVES OUR ATMOSPHERE -- FOREVER!!
THERE THEY GO! EARTH IS SAFE!
AND HERE WE GO, DRIFTING BACK TO THE SURFACE!
LOOK!! WE'RE HEADING BACK INTO THE RADIATION BELT AGAIN! IT MADE A MONSTER OF ME ONCE-- WHAT FURTHER HARM WILL IT DO TO ME THIS TIME?
EASY, FELLA! WE'VE GOT TO PASS THROUGH IT! THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!
NO!! I WON'T!! NO! ARGHHH!!!! NOT AGAIN!! OHH-- WE'RE IN IT! WE'RE IN THE RADIATION BELT!!
THE THING-- SAVAGE, POWERFUL, A JUGGERNAUT OF DESTRUCTION, COWERS LIKE A FRIGHTENED CHILD AS THE SPACESHIP PLUNGES THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS COSMIC BELT!! AND THEN -- IT HAPPENS!!
I'M CHANGING AGAIN! I KNOW IT! I--I CAN FEEL IT!!
CHANGING... CHANGING...
... INTO WHAT?!?
BUT, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND...
HANG ON! WE'VE LANDED!
19

THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
CAPTURED!
STEPPING OUT OF THE NOW-MOTIONLESS SHIP, FOUR PAIRS OF EYES ARE BLINDED BY THE GLARE OF GIANT FLOOD-LIGHTS!
V-457
KEEP THOSE LIGHTS ON 'EM, MEN!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE FOUR OF YOU!
CHIEF, BEFORE YOU TRY TO ARREST US, LET ME TELL YOU THE TRUE STORY OF--
SAVE IT, REED! I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO AND I'M DOING IT!
DON'T KID YOURSELF! YOU CAN'T HOLD US! I CAN SMASH ALL OF YOU SINGLE-HANDED! YOU KNOW WHO I AM, DON'T YOU?
NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE, MISTER--BUT I'M LOCKING YOU UP WITH THE OTHERS!
NEVER SAW ME BEFORE? WHO YOU KIDDIN', MISTER?
THERE AIN'T ANYBODY ON EARTH DOESN'T KNOW THE THING WHEN THEY SEE 'IM!
BEN!! LOOK AT YOURSELF! LOOK!
20


WHA--?? LET'S HAVE YOUR MIRROR!! I'LL--HEY!! I'M NOT A MONSTER ANY MORE!! I'M A MAN AGAIN!!
OH, BEN, I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!
MY FACE--MY HANDS! THEY'RE HUMAN! HUMAN!!!!
WAIT!! WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENING?
OH, NO!! NOT AGAIN!
DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN-- DON'T--DON'T--
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! IT COULDN'T BE--IT WAS JUST A JOKE!! YEAH--A REAL FUNNY JOKE!
BEN, DON'T LOSE HOPE! YOU BECAME NORMAL FOR THOSE FEW SECONDS! THAT MIGHT MEAN THE POWER OF THE COSMIC RAYS IS GROWING WEAKER! SOMEDAY YOU MAY TURN NORMAL AGAIN--FOR--GOOD!
SHE'S RIGHT, PAL! THAT WAS JUST A START!
LOOK! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL, BUT IT WON'T WORK! YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!
CHIEF, BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE, TAKE US TO MY APARTMENT! I PROMISE IT WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED!
21

AND SO, WITH SIRENS BLARING, THE ARMED MOTORCADE SPEEDS TOWARD ITS DESTINATION...
THOSE CRIMES WERE NOT COMMITTED BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR, CHIEF! IT WAS A QUARTET OF ALIENS IMPERSONATING US!!
SURE, REED, SURE! AND I STILL BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS, TOO!
AT THE APARTMENT, THE POLICE CONFIDENTLY OPEN THE DOOR--AND ARE MET BY...
HOLY HANNAH!! THAT THING WAS NEVER SPAWNED ON EARTH!
I CAN'T! IT'S TOO LATE!
SHUT THE DOOR AGAIN! HURRY!
OUTTA THE WAY, WEAKLINGS! LET ME HANDLE THIS!
HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE--MORE GRUESOME THAN THE FIRST!
OPEN FIRE!!
BULLETS WILL NEVER STOP THOSE CREATURES!
MEBBE NOT--BUT I KNOW SOMETHING THAT WILL!
FLAME ON!!
LOOK!! THE TORCH IS DRIVING IT BACK!
IT'S COWERING FROM THE INTENSE HEAT!!
22

THERE GOES THE THIRD ONE!
IT-- IT'S UNBELIEVABLE HOW THEY CAN CHANGE THEIR FORMS AT WILL!
GOTCHA!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THE THREE SKRULLS HAVE CHANGED BACK TO THEIR NORMAL FORMS...
WELL, CHIEF-- WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY FOR YOURSELF NOW?
LOOKS LIKE I MAY START BELIEVIN' IN SANTA CLAUS, TOO!
SO THEY'RE THE CHARACTERS WHO IMPERSONATED YOU FOUR AND COMMITTED THOSE CRIMES, EH?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE FOURTH ONE IS ON HIS WAY TO ANOTHER GALAXY NOW WITH THE REST OF HIS INVASION FLEET!
IMAGINE! YOU FOUR FOILED AN INTERPLANETARY INVASION, AND WE'VE BEEN HUNTING YOU LIKE CRIMINALS!
BUT WE STILL HAVE ONE BIG PROBLEM LEFT--
AND HOW!
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT, MY YOUNG, FIERY FRIEND, IS... WHAT DO WE DO WITH THOSE THREE SKRULLS??
IF WE PUT THEM IN PRISON, THEY'LL PROBABLY TURN THEMSELVES INTO CATERPILLARS AND SLIP THROUGH THE BARS!
CHIEF, WILL YOU TRUST US TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM FOR YOU?


MY BOY, AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN TODAY, I'D TRUST YOU FOUR WITH ANYTHING!... GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LAD!
THANK YOU, CHIEF! YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR DECISION!
I GUESS THIS MEANS THE FANTASTIC FOUR WON'T BE HUNTED ANY MORE, EH, CHIEF?
HUNTED?? IF THE PUBLIC KNEW WHAT WE KNEW, THEY'D GET A MEDAL!
WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THEM, REED?
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, THEY CAN ALWAYS CHANGE THEIR FORM AND ESCAPE!
THERE'S ONE WAY WE CAN BE CERTAIN THEY WON'T ESCAPE!
NO! NO! DON'T KILL US! DON'T!
WE PROMISE TO CAUSE NO MORE HARM! WE'LL LIVE AMONG YOU IN PEACE! WE SWEAR IT!
WE HATE BEING SKRULLS! WE'D RATHER BE ANYTHING ELSE!
SO BE IT! I WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO CHANGE INTO!
...AND I WILL HYNOTIZE YOU SO THAT YOU WILL FORGET YOUR PREVIOUS IDENTITIES! YOU WILL REMAIN WHAT YOU BECOME-- FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE!
WILL WE HAVE A PEACEFUL EXISTENCE?
PROMISE WE'LL BE CONTENTED!
AND SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT THE THREE CAPTIVE SKRULLS BECAME THE MOST CONTENTED CREATURES ON EARTH--AS THEY GRAZED PEACEFULLY OUT IN THE PASTURE...
MOOO!!
SO ENDS THE MENACE OF THE SKRULLS!
YEAH, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING THERE'S EVEN WORSE TROUBLE AHEAD!
HEY, THING--HOW COME YOU'RE SUCH AN OPTIMIST?
The END

PRESENTING: THE FIRST OF A SERIES...

BEN GRIMM

THE FANTASTIC FOUR PIN-UP PAGE FEATURING IN THIS ISSUE:

THE THING

THE STRONGEST MAN-LIKE CREATURE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

WATCH FOR OUR NEXT FANTASTIC FOUR PIN-UP IN THE NEXT GREAT ISSUE!

V-457

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THE Fantastic Four
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THE GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD!!
IN THIS GREAT, COLLECTORS'-ITEM ISSUE, YOU WILL SEE, FOR THE FIRST TIME:
THE AMAZING
FANTASTI-CAR,
THE COLORFUL NEW
FANTASTIC FOUR COSTUMES,
AND OTHER STARTLING SURPRISES!
ALSO, LEARN THE SECRET OF THE
FANTASTIC FOUR'S SKYSCRAPER HIDE-OUT!!
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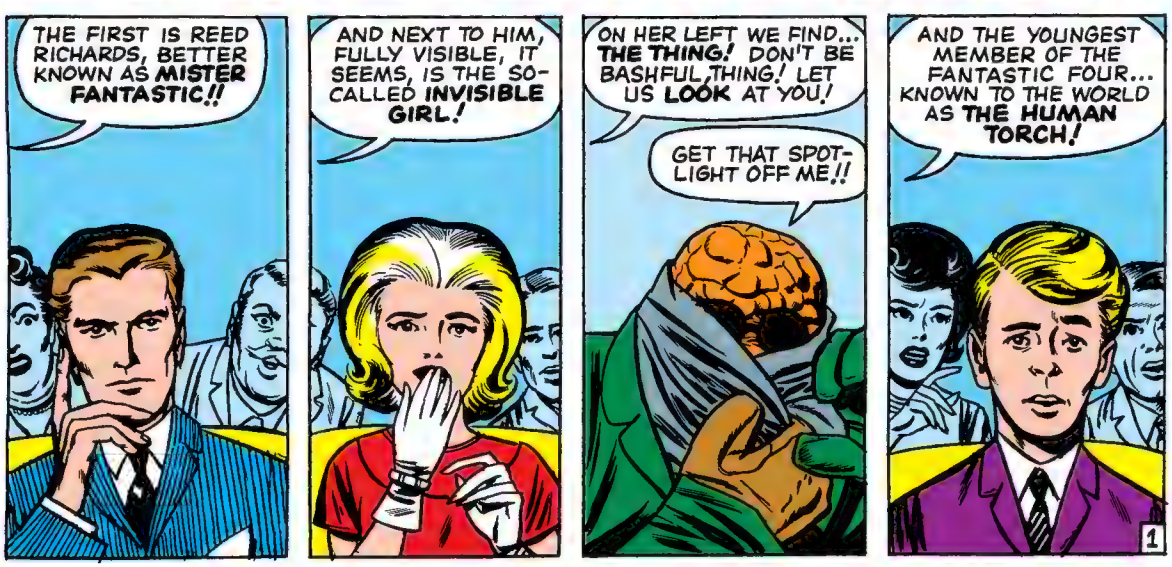
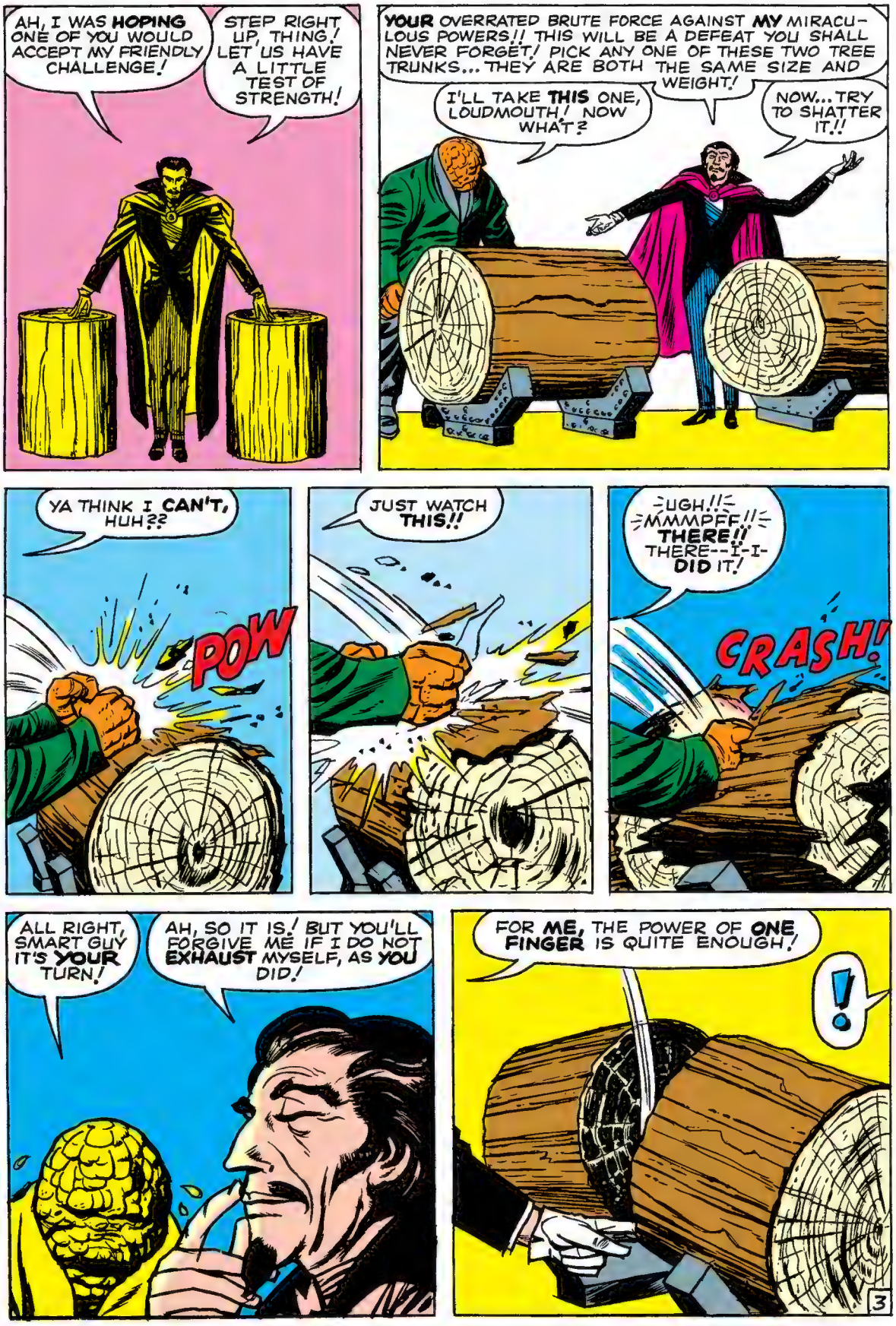
THE FANTASTIC FOUR, in...

THE MENACE OF THE MIRACLE MAN

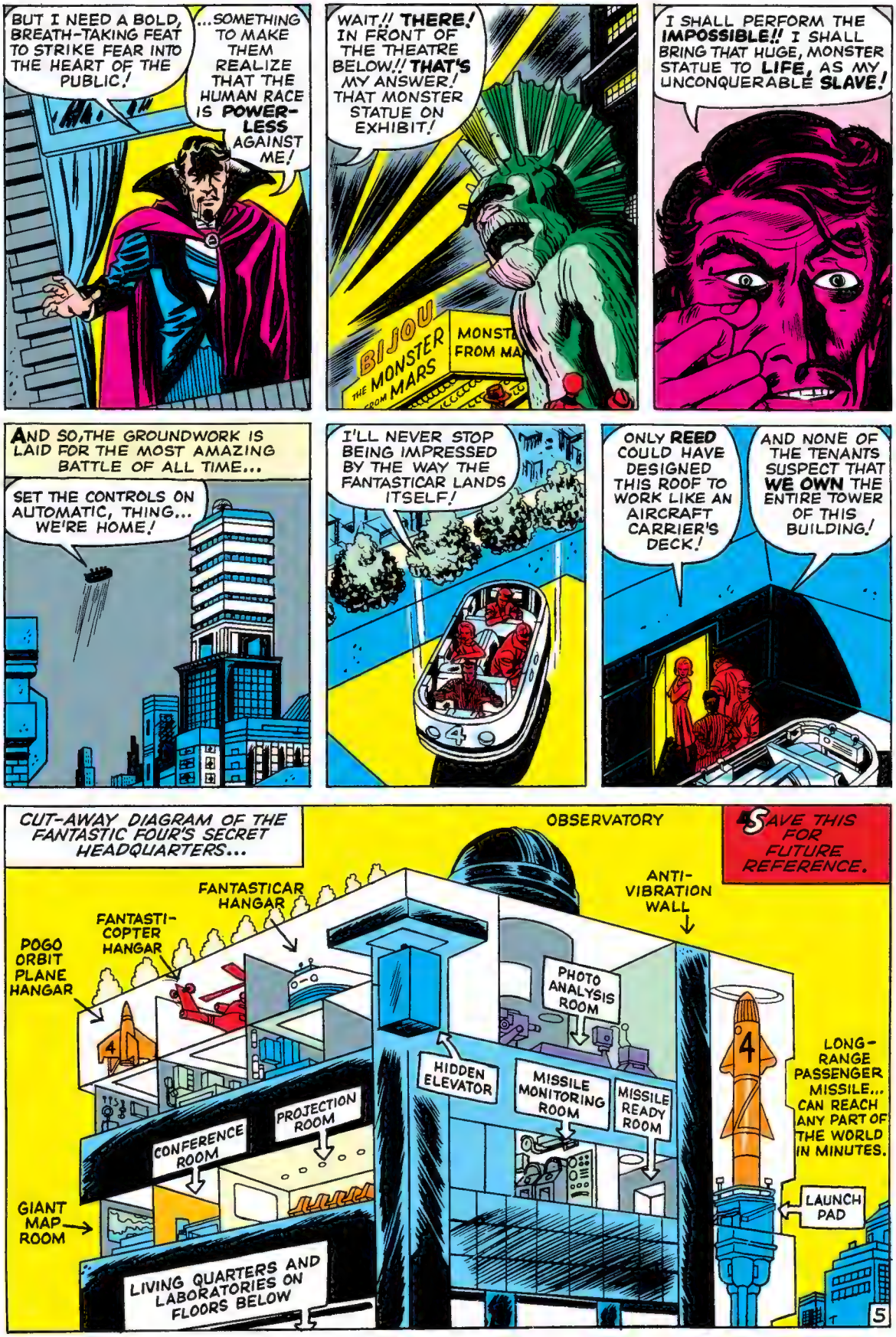
CAN EVEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR DEFEAT A MAN WHO PERFORMS... MIRACLES ???
AH! FROM MY VANTAGE POINT UP HERE, I SEE THAT WE HAVE FOUR CELEBRITIES IN OUR AUDIENCE!! LET ME INTRODUCE THEM TO YOU...
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
CHAPTER 1
LOOK! THE MIRACLE MAN IS ACTUALLY FLOATING IN THE AIR!!
HE--HE CAN DO ANYTHING!
HOW DOES HE DO IT?? THERE ARE NO WIRES... NOTHING!! HE REALLY DOES WORK MIRACLES!
V-563


THE FIRST IS REED RICHARDS, BETTER KNOWN AS MISTER FANTASTIC!!
AND NEXT TO HIM, FULLY VISIBLE, IT SEEMS, IS THE SO-CALLED INVISIBLE GIRL!
ON HER LEFT WE FIND... THE THING! DON'T BE BASHFUL, THING! LET US LOOK AT YOU!
GET THAT SPOT-LIGHT OFF ME!!
AND THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR... KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS THE HUMAN TORCH!
1

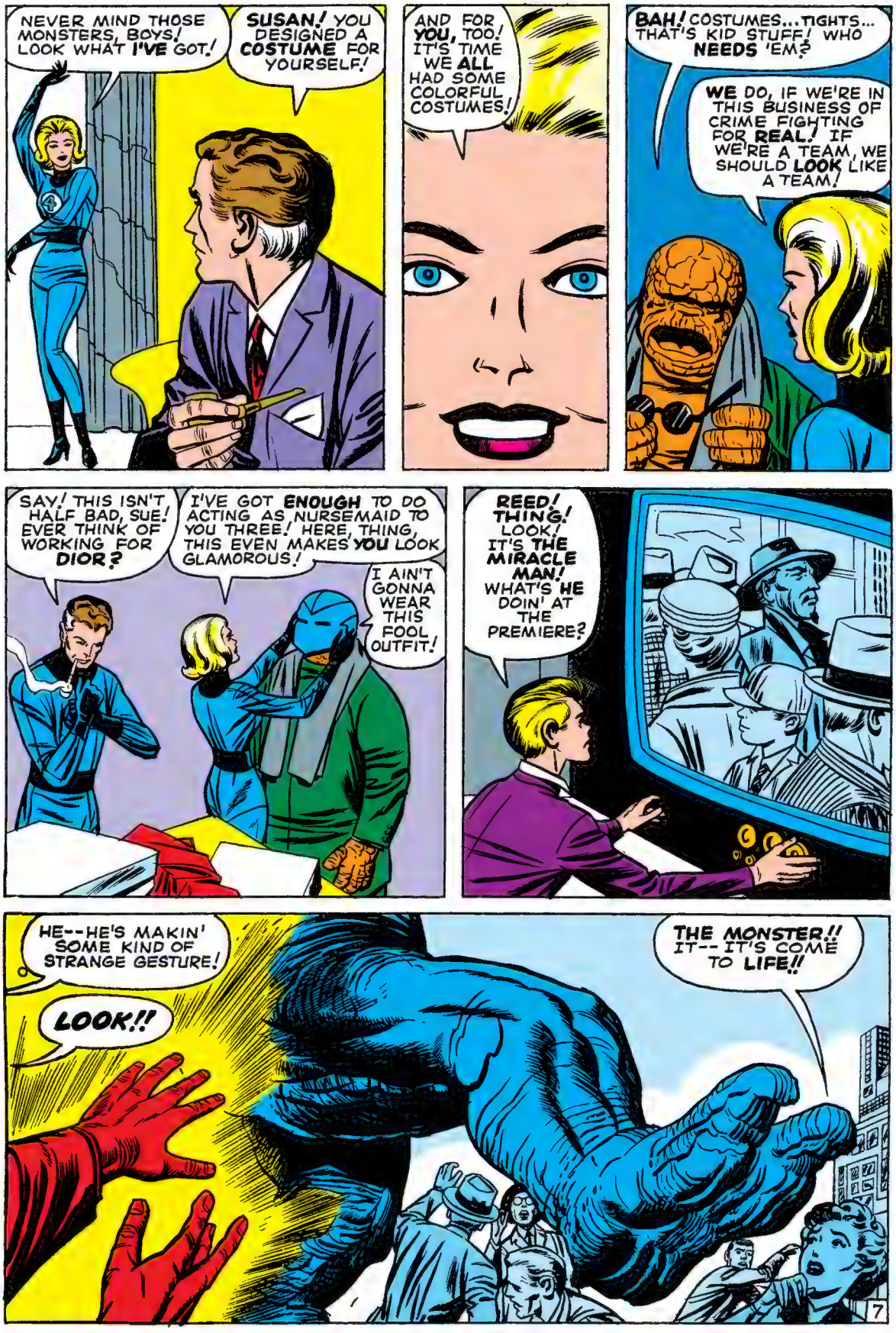
THERE YOU HAVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR!! THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST AMAZING QUARTET IN HISTORY!! BUT, I SAY TO YOU...
...BAH!!
NEXT TO MY POWER, THEY ARE NOTHING!
CAN THEY BECOME ALL-POWERFUL GIANTS AT WILL??
LOOK!!
IT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
CAN THEY CHANGE THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR BODIES TO ANYTHING THEY WISH? CAN THEY TURN THEMSELVES INTO WATER, METAL, OR EVEN ...GAS!!
WE MUST BE DREAMING!
IT'S MAD! INSANE!
WILL THE POWER OF THE ELEMENTS DO THEIR BIDDING? CAN THEY CONTROL THE STORM? THE THUNDER? THE LIGHTNING?
HA HA HA HA
THE FANTASTIC FOUR!! I SNEER AT THEIR PUNY POWERS! I MOCK THEIR CHILDISH FEATS!
THING! WAIT!!
LEGGO!! THAT'S THE LAST STRAW!!
LET ME AT 'IM! I'LL WIPE THAT GRIN OFF HIS OILY FACE!! LET ME AT 'IM!
2


AH, I WAS HOPING ONE OF YOU WOULD ACCEPT MY FRIENDLY CHALLENGE!
STEP RIGHT UP, THING! LET US HAVE A LITTLE TEST OF STRENGTH!
YOUR OVERRATED BRUTE FORCE AGAINST MY MIRACULOUS POWERS!! THIS WILL BE A DEFEAT YOU SHALL NEVER FORGET! PICK ANY ONE OF THESE TWO TREE TRUNKS... THEY ARE BOTH THE SAME SIZE AND WEIGHT!
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE, LOUDMOUTH! NOW WHAT?
NOW... TRY TO SHATTER IT.!!
YA THINK I CAN'T, HUH??
POW
JUST WATCH THIS!!
=UGH!!=
=MMMPFF!!=
THERE!! THERE--I-I-DID IT!
CRASH!
ALL RIGHT, SMART GUY IT'S YOUR TURN!
AH, SO IT IS! BUT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I DO NOT EXHAUST MYSELF, AS YOU DID!
FOR ME, THE POWER OF ONE FINGER IS QUITE ENOUGH!
!
3

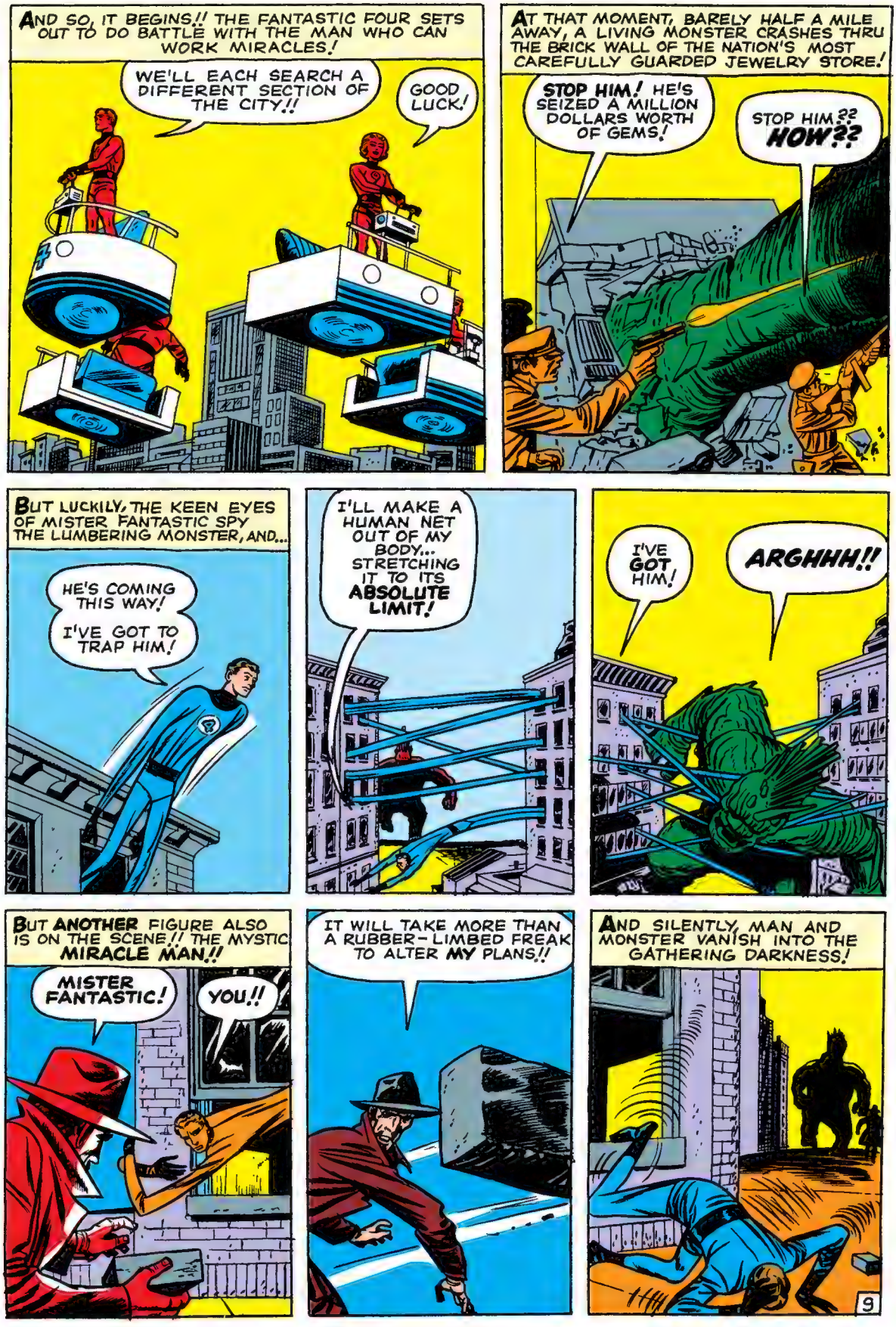
IT'S A TRICK! IT'S GOTTA BE A TRICK!! NOBODY IS THAT POWERFUL!!
YOU LUMBERING FOOL!! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF MY MIRACULOUS POWER?? YOU, WITH ALL YOUR ANIMAL STRENGTH, COULD NOT HURT ME WITH YOUR HARDEST BLOW!
OH NO??
TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!!
CERTAINLY, IF IT WILL SERVE TO CONVINCE YOU!
IT AIN'T POSSIBLE! I COULDA SMASHED THRU A STONE WALL WITH THAT PUNCH! LET ME AT 'IM AGAIN...
AND SO I CONCLUDE MY PERFORM-ANCE!
REED!! STOP HIM! HE'S GOING BERSERK!
HOLD IT, THING! THAT'S ENOUGH!
MINUTES LATER, IN THEIR AIR-POWERED FANTASTICAR, FOUR MYSTIFIED FIGURES APPROACH THEIR SECRET HEADQUARTERS...
YOU'VE BEEN SO SILENT, REED! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
I'M THINKING THAT IT IS FORTUNATE FOR US, AND FOR THE WORLD, THAT THE MIRACLE MAN IS NOT A CRIMINAL! FOR, IF HE WERE...
...HE MIGHT BE THE ONE FOE WE COULD NOT DEFEAT!!
BUT LITTLE DOES MR. FANTASTIC REALIZE HOW PROPHETIC HIS WORDS ARE! FOR, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, BACKSTAGE...
THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO THROW OFF MY MASK OF RESPECTABILITY!!
NOW THAT I HAVE DEMONSTRATED MY POW-ERS TO THE WORLD, IT IS TIME FOR THE MIRACLE MAN TO... STRIKE!


BUT I NEED A BOLD, BREATH-TAKING FEAT TO STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEART OF THE PUBLIC!
...SOMETHING TO MAKE THEM REALIZE THAT THE HUMAN RACE IS POWER-LESS AGAINST ME!
HA! HA!
WAIT!! THERE! IN FRONT OF THE THEATRE BELOW!! THAT'S MY ANSWER! THAT MONSTER STATUE ON EXHIBIT!
BIJOU
THE MONSTER FROM MARS
I SHALL PERFORM THE IMPOSSIBLE!! I SHALL BRING THAT HUGE, MONSTER STATUE TO LIFE, AS MY UNCONQUERABLE SLAVE!
AND SO, THE GROUNDWORK IS LAID FOR THE MOST AMAZING BATTLE OF ALL TIME...
SET THE CONTROLS ON AUTOMATIC, THING... WE'RE HOME!
I'LL NEVER STOP BEING IMPRESSED BY THE WAY THE FANTASTICAR LANDS ITSELF!
4
ONLY REED COULD HAVE DESIGNED THIS ROOF TO WORK LIKE AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER'S DECK!
AND NONE OF THE TENANTS SUSPECT THAT WE OWN THE ENTIRE TOWER OF THIS BUILDING!
CUT-AWAY DIAGRAM OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S SECRET HEADQUARTERS...
SAVE THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
OBSERVATORY
ANTI-VIBRATION WALL
FANTASTICAR HANGAR
FANTASTI-COPTER HANGAR
POGO ORBIT PLANE HANGAR
PHOTO ANALYSIS ROOM
HIDDEN ELEVATOR
MISSILE MONITORING ROOM
MISSILE READY ROOM
PROJECTION ROOM
CONFERENCE ROOM
GIANT MAP ROOM
LIVING QUARTERS AND LABORATORIES ON FLOORS BELOW
LONG-RANGE PASSENGER MISSILE... CAN REACH ANY PART OF THE WORLD IN MINUTES.
LAUNCH PAD
4
5

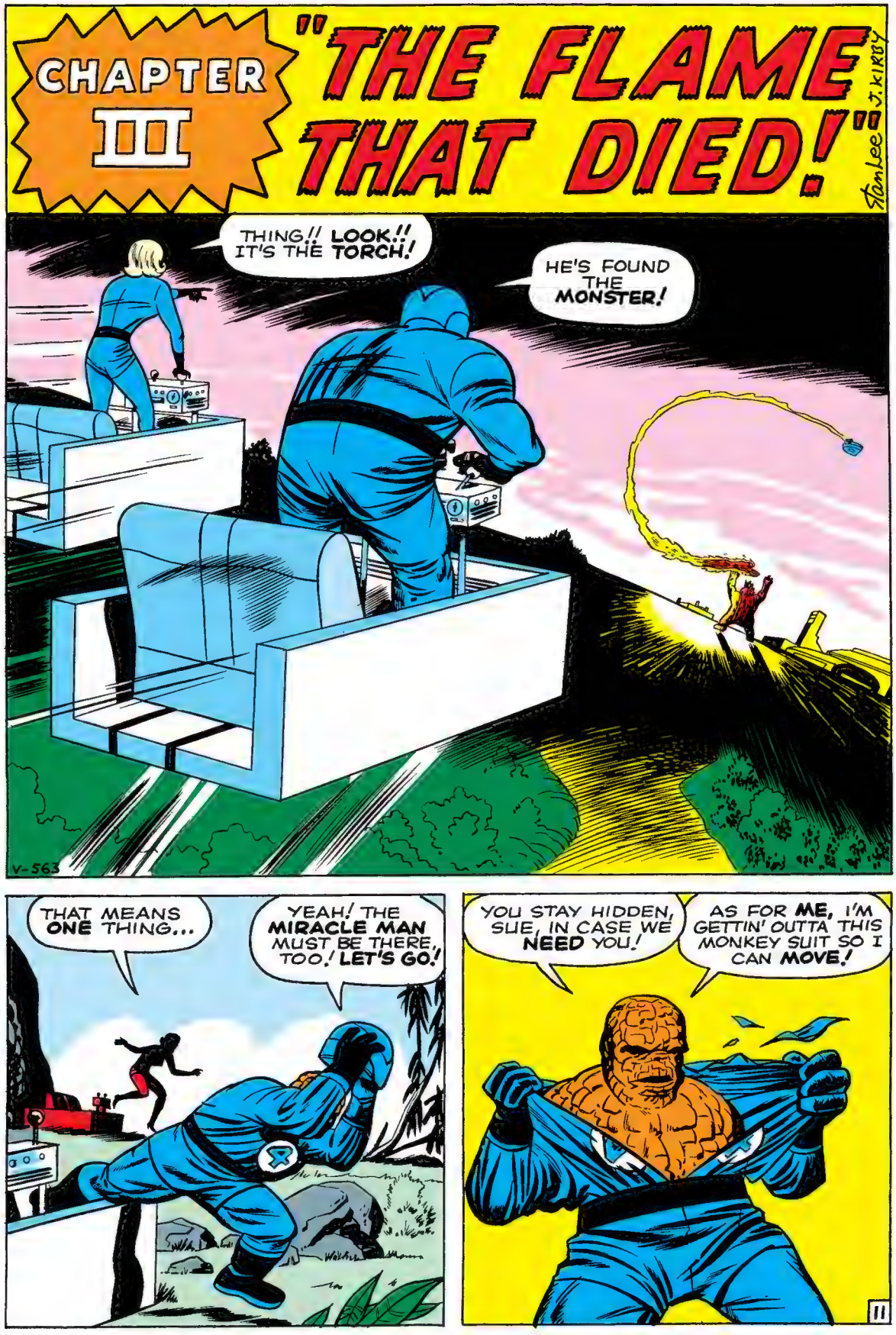
CHAPTER II
"THE MONSTER LIVES!"
BIJOU
THE MONSTER FROM MARS!
NOW SHOWING
MON THES
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
V-563
GUESS I'LL SEE WHAT'S DOIN' ON TV TONIGHT, REED!
HEY!! THIS IS KEEN! THEY'RE TELEVISING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF "THE MONSTER FROM MARS!"
THAT HUGE EXHIBIT OF THE MONSTER ON DISPLAY OUTSIDE THE THEATRE MUST HAVE COST A SMALL FORTUNE!
6


NEVER MIND THOSE MONSTERS, BOYS! LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT!
SUSAN! YOU DESIGNED A COSTUME FOR YOURSELF!
AND FOR YOU, TOO! IT'S TIME WE ALL HAD SOME COLORFUL COSTUMES!
BAH! COSTUMES... TIGHTS... THAT'S KID STUFF! WHO NEEDS 'EM?
WE DO, IF WE'RE IN THIS BUSINESS OF CRIME FIGHTING FOR REAL! IF WE'RE A TEAM, WE SHOULD LOOK LIKE A TEAM!
SAY! THIS ISN'T HALF BAD, SUE! EVER THINK OF WORKING FOR DIOR?
I'VE GOT ENOUGH TO DO ACTING AS NURSEMAID TO YOU THREE! HERE, THING, THIS EVEN MAKES YOU LOOK GLAMOROUS!
I AIN'T GONNA WEAR THIS FOOL OUTFIT!
REED! THING! LOOK! IT'S THE MIRACLE MAN! WHAT'S HE DOIN' AT THE PREMIERE?
HE--HE'S MAKIN' SOME KIND OF STRANGE GESTURE!
LOOK!!
THE MONSTER!! IT--IT'S COME TO LIFE!!
7

GET THE CROWDS BACK! WE'LL TRY TO STOP IT!
KEEP FIRING!! I'LL RADIO FOR HELP!!
JUMP, JOE! HE'S SQUEEZIN' THE CAR LIKE IT'S A PAPER BOX!
SET THAT BAZOOKA UP HERE!! ON THE DOUBLE!
OKAY!! LET 'IM HAVE IT!!
NO... WAIT!! LOOK!!
HE--HE VANISHED!! RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES!
POP!
IT WAS THE MIRACLE MAN! HE DID IT! HE CAUSED THE WHOLE THING! I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT HE DID IT!
CLICK!
THIS IS WHAT I DREADED!! THE ONE MAN WHOSE POWERS SEEM TO BE GREATER THAN OURS... HE MUST BE STOPPED!!
POWER--SHMOWER!! JUST YOU LET ME GET MY HANDS ON HIM AGAIN...!!
WE--WE'VE GOT TO WARN THE COMMISSIONER!
BUT, AS SUE IS ABOUT TO LEARN, THE COMMISSIONER HAS ALREADY BEEN WARNED...
PHONE CALL FOR YOU, SIR, FROM THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
GOOD! I WANT TO READ THEM THIS NOTE I RECEIVED!
REED, I'M AUTHORIZING YOU FOUR TO DO WHATEVER YOU CAN! THIS MENACE MUST BE STOPPED!
I, THE MIRACLE MAN, DECLARE WAR ON THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE! I INTEND TO CONQUER THE EARTH!
8


AND SO, IT BEGINS!! THE FANTASTIC FOUR SETS OUT TO DO BATTLE WITH THE MAN WHO CAN WORK MIRACLES!
WE'LL EACH SEARCH A DIFFERENT SECTION OF THE CITY!!
GOOD LUCK!
AT THAT MOMENT, BARELY HALF A MILE AWAY, A LIVING MONSTER CRASHES THRU THE BRICK WALL OF THE NATION'S MOST CAREFULLY GUARDED JEWELRY STORE!
STOP HIM! HE'S SEIZED A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF GEMS!
STOP HIM?? HOW??
BUT LUCKILY, THE KEEN EYES OF MISTER FANTASTIC SPY THE LUMBERING MONSTER, AND...
HE'S COMING THIS WAY!
I'VE GOT TO TRAP HIM!
I'LL MAKE A HUMAN NET OUT OF MY BODY... STRETCHING IT TO ITS ABSOLUTE LIMIT!
I'VE GOT HIM!
ARGHHH!!
BUT ANOTHER FIGURE ALSO IS ON THE SCENE!! THE MYSTIC MIRACLE MAN!!
MISTER FANTASTIC!
YOU!!
IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A RUBBER-LIMBED FREAK TO ALTER MY PLANS!!
AND SILENTLY, MAN AND MONSTER VANISH INTO THE GATHERING DARKNESS!
9

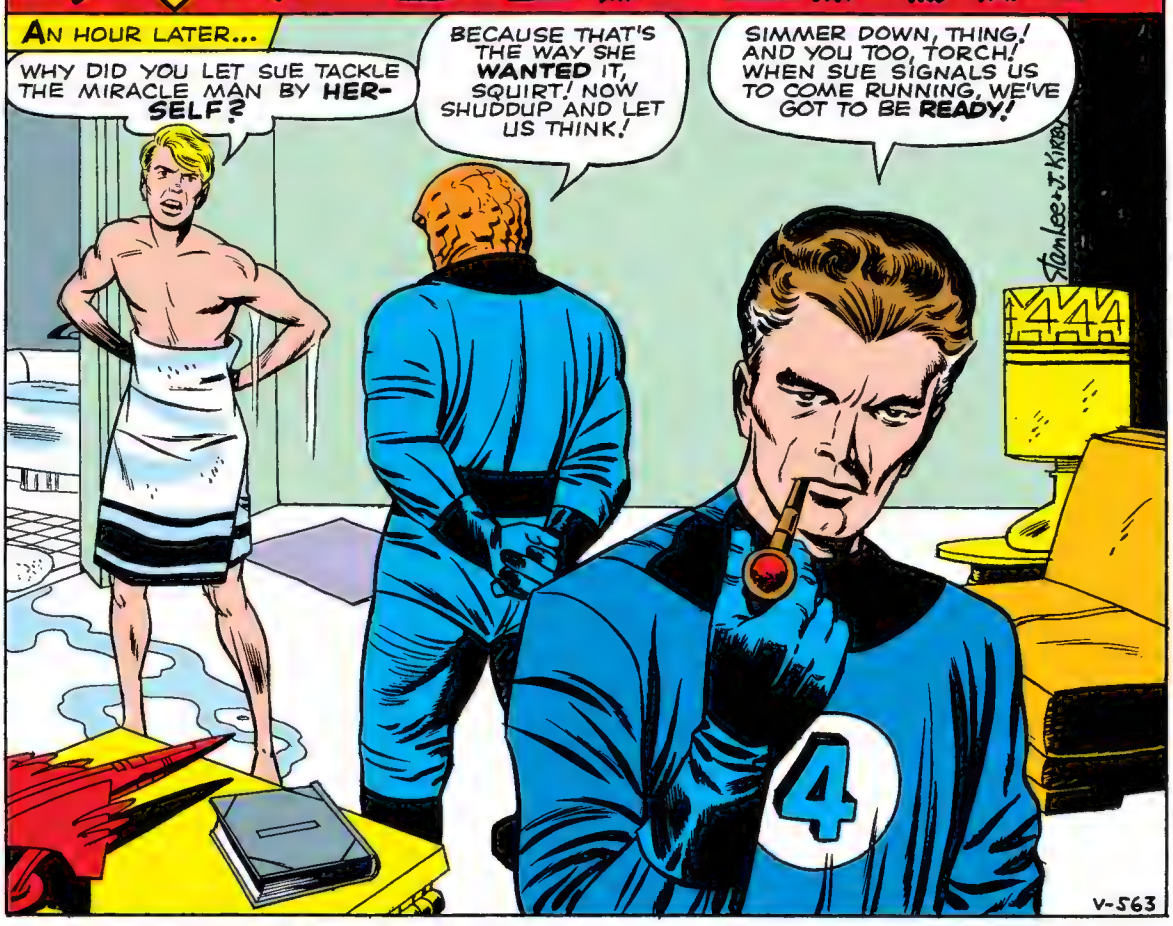
MINUTES LATER...
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, REED! YOU ALMOST HAD HIM, AND THEN HE SLIPPED THRU YOUR FINGERS!
I--I'M SORRY, COMMISSIONER!
SORRY?? IS THAT THE BEST ANSWER I CAN GET FROM MISTER FANTASTIC?!!
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
WHATEVER IT IS, SIR, THE OTHERS ARE STILL ON PATROL! WE'LL STOP HIM YET!
BUT HOW CAN A MAN WHO WORKS MIRACLES BE STOPPED? THAT IS THE PROBLEM CONFRONTING THE GUARDS AT THE LOCAL ORDNANCE DEPOT!
IT'S THE MONSTER!
HE'S AFTER OUR NEW ATOMIC TANK!
AND FROM ABOVE, ANOTHER FANTASTIC FIGURE HURTLES TO THE SCENE!
I'VE FOUND HIM!
DIVING FROM THE HOVERING FANTASTICAR, JOHNNY STORM PLUMMETS TO EARTH IN A DEATH-DEFYING PLUNGE!
BUT, BEFORE REACHING THE GROUND, HE IS FULLY AFLAME, AS THE HUMAN TORCH ENTERS THE BATTLE!
I'VE GOT TO FINISH OFF THAT OVERSIZED HULK SO THAT WE CAN THEN CONCENTRATE ON THE MIRACLE MAN HIMSELF!
YOU TRYING TO GRAB ME, CHUM?
WELL, GO AHEAD! BE MY GUEST!
10


CHAPTER III
"THE FLAME THAT DIED!"
Stan Lee J. KIRBY
THING!! LOOK!! IT'S THE TORCH!
HE'S FOUND THE MONSTER!
V-563
THAT MEANS ONE THING...
YEAH! THE MIRACLE MAN MUST BE THERE, TOO! LET'S GO!
YOU STAY HIDDEN, SUE, IN CASE WE NEED YOU!
AS FOR ME, I'M GETTIN' OUTTA THIS MONKEY SUIT SO I CAN MOVE!
11

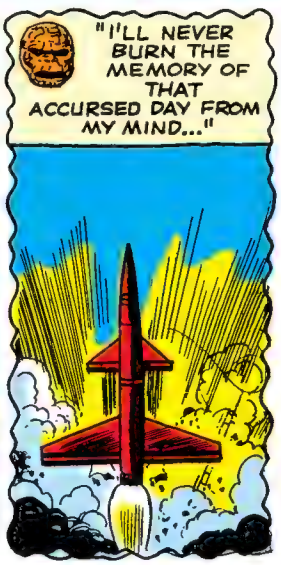
BUT, BEFORE THE ENRAGED THING CAN REACH THE SCENE...
ATTA BOY! YOU GOT ME!
BUT I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...
YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE HUMAN TORCH...
...I'M JUST TOO HOT TO HANDLE!
HE WAS NOTHING BUT WOOD AND PLASTER!! HOW DID THE MIRACLE MAN MAKE HIM MOVE?? HOW??!
WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH THAT FLAMING MENACE FLYING AROUND! BRING HIM DOWN, MEN!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, YOU FOOLS!! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH! HE JUST SAVED OUR ATOMIC TANK!
BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DOES NOT HOLD HIS FIRE....!!
THIS WILL STOP THAT BLAZING NUISANCE!
UGH!! CH--CHEMICAL FOAM!
MY FLAME'S GOING OUT!! IF ONLY...THE OTHERS...WILL BE... IN TIME...
TORCH!!
THE MIRACLE MAN DID IT, THING!! GET HIM... GET HIM!!
12

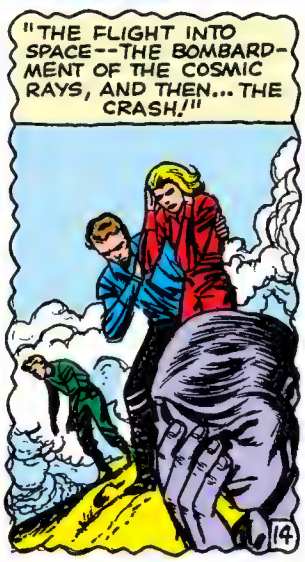
ALL RIGHT, MISTER... LET'S SEE YOU COOK UP A MIRACLE TO ESCAPE ME NOW!
FOOL! ALL I NEED DO IS GESTURE, AND...
THE GROUND!! IT'S OPENIN' UP!!
I'M SINKING!
HAH!! THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I HAVE BESTED THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
TAKE WARNING, ALL OF YOU! THE NEXT TIME SHALL BE THE LAST!
OOOHH... WHAT A FALL!! GOOD THING I STILL HAD SOME FLAME ON WHEN I HIT!
WHERE DID HE GO? I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER HIM! I'LL GET EVEN IF IT TAKES FOREVER!
BUT THE FOURTH MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR TAKES OVER AT THAT INSTANT... AS SHE SPEAKS INTO HER PORTABLE SHORT-WAVE MIKE...
ATTENTION, THING! ORDER TROOPS TO FALL BACK! I WILL TACKLE MIRACLE MAN ALONE! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE! OVER, AND OUT!
ONE INVISIBLE GIRL CAN SOMETIMES ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN A BATTALION!
THE MIRACLE MAN IS DRIVING OFF WITH THE ATOMIC TANK! BUT THIS TIME HE'S GOT AN UNSEEN PASSENGER!

CHAPTER IV "IN THE SHADOW OF DEFEAT!"


AN HOUR LATER...
WHY DID YOU LET SUE TACKLE THE MIRACLE MAN BY HERSELF?
BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY SHE WANTED IT, SQUIRT! NOW SHUDDUP AND LET US THINK!
SIMMER DOWN, THING! AND YOU TOO, TORCH! WHEN SUE SIGNALS US TO COME RUNNING, WE'VE GOT TO BE READY!
Stan Lee • J. Kirby
444
4
V-563

READY? I'M ALWAYS READY!! THE NEXT TIME I GET WITHIN GRABBING DISTANCE OF THAT GUY, I'LL MAKE MINCEMEAT OF HIM!
HE THINKS HIS POWERS ARE GREATER THAN OURS, HUH? WELL, THEY AIN'T! HE'S JUST TRICKIER, THAT'S ALL!! NOTHING'S MORE POWERFUL THAN THOSE COSMIC RAYS THAT TURNED US INTO WHAT WE ARE!





"I'LL NEVER FORGET SEEING SUSAN GROW INVISIBLE RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!"
"OR THE LOOK ON ALL YOUR FACES AS I TALKED TO YOU, WHILE I WAS STILL BEN GRIMM..."
"...BEFORE I BEGAN TO...CHANGE..."
"...INTO THE THING!"
"AND HOW ABOUT YOU, REED? HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN, DURING OUR BATTLE, YOU REALIZED YOU HAD CHANGED, TOO?"
"...YOUR LIMBS HAD TURNED TO ELASTIC! YOU COULD MOLD THEM INTO ANY SHAPE!"
"BUT THE MOST UNCANNY THING OF ALL WAS SEEING JOHNNY'S BODY TURN TO LIVING FLAME!"
"BEING LIGHTER THAN AIR, AS HE BLAZED LIKE A HUMAN TORCH, HE WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO FLY! GRAVITY MEANT NOTHING TO HIM!"
"THAT'S WHEN WE DECIDED THAT OUR DESTINIES WERE ALL ENTWINED, AND SO WE DECIDED TO REMAIN TOGETHER, AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR!"
FATE HAS BEEN GOOD TO US, BEN! WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO USE OUR POWERS TO HELP MANKIND... TO FIGHT EVIL AND INJUSTICE!
SURE! IT'S BEEN GREAT FOR YOU! BUT WHAT ABOUT ME! I'M JUST A WALKIN' FRIGHT! AN UGLY, GRUESOME THING!
15

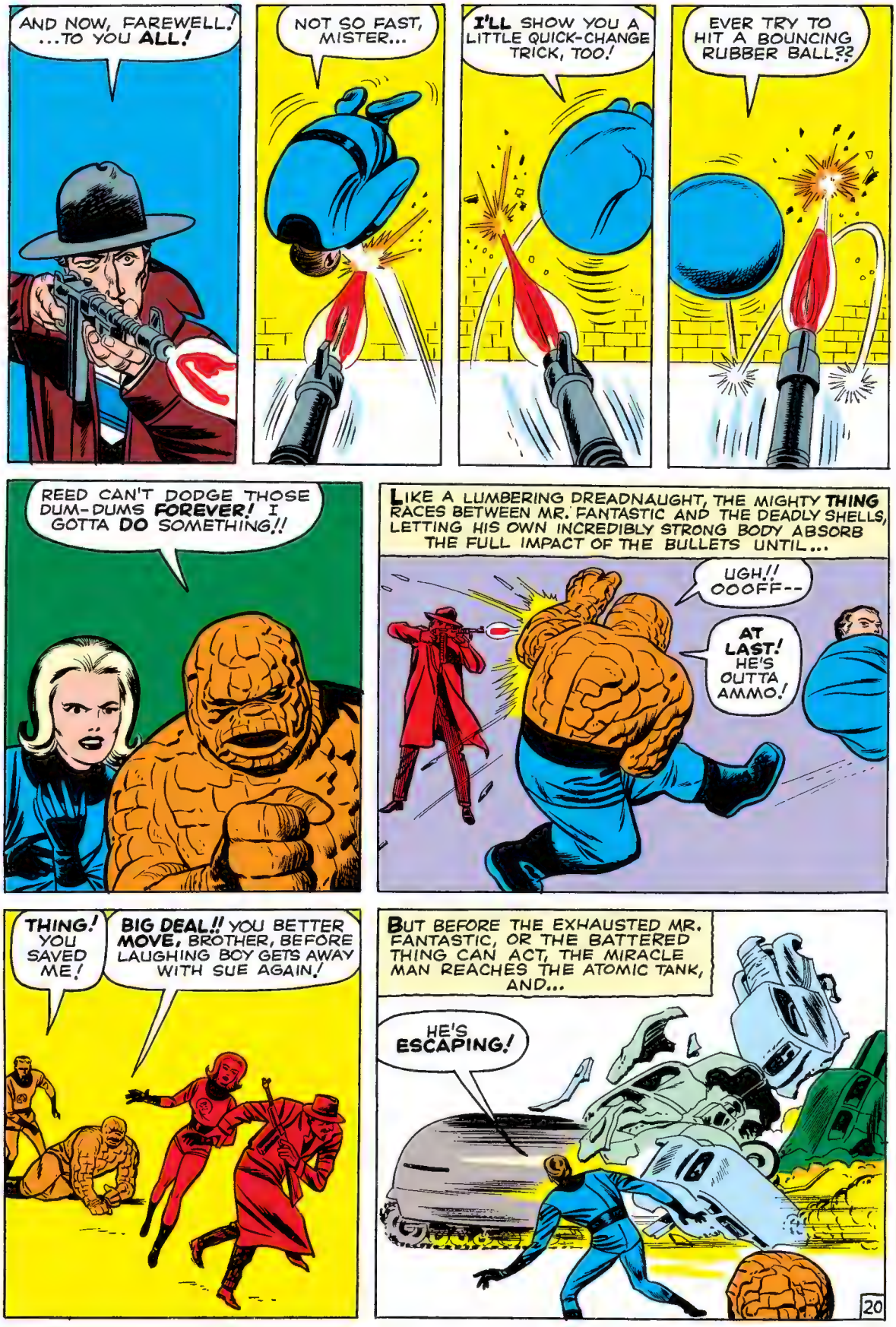
BUT YOU ONCE CHANGED TO YOUR NORMAL SELF FOR A FEW MINUTES! IT MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN... FOR A LONGER TIME!
BAH! I DON'T WANT TO BE NORMAL FOR A FEW MINUTES! I WANT TO BE BEN GRIMM AGAIN! I WANT SUE TO LOOK AT ME THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT YOU!
MY SISTER?? DON'T KID YOURSELF, THING! SHE WOULDN'T GO FOR YOU IF YOU LOOKED LIKE ROCK HUDSON!!
WHY, YOU CRUMMY BRAT!! I'LL TEACH YOU TO LAUGH AT ME!
HEY, YOU BIG APE! I WAS ONLY KIDDIN'! LOOK OUT!
DON'T!!
ALL RIGHT! IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT...
FLAME OFF, BLAST YA! FIGHT LIKE A MAN!
SURE, IF YOU USE YOUR INHUMAN STRENGTH, THAT'S OKAY! BUT IF I USE MY FLAME, YOU DON'T LIKE IT! I'M LEAVIN'! I'M SICK OF LOOKIN' AT YOUR UGLY FACE! YOU GIVE ME A SWIFT PAIN!
GO ON... GET OUT... WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
WHY CAN'T YOU CONTROL YOURSELF, THING? WHY MUST WE ALWAYS FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES? WHAT'S WRONG WITH US?
ALL I GOTTA DO IS LOOK IN THE MIRROR TO ANSWER THAT ONE, BROTHER!! AW, THE HECK WITH IT! WHERE'S SUE? WHEN IS SHE GONNA SIGNAL US??
16

EVEN AS THE THING WONDERS ABOUT THE INVISIBLE GIRL'S WHEREABOUTS, WE PICK UP HER TRAIL AS THE ATOMIC TANK ENTERS AN AUTO JUNKYARD AT THE EDGE OF TOWN!
WITHIN MINUTES I'LL HAVE THIS TANK SO WELL-HIDDEN THAT IT WILL NEVER BE FOUND!
THE MIRACLE MAN IS COVERING THE TANK OVER WITH THE SHELLS OF OLD WRECKED AUTOS!
NOW IF I CAN JUST ALERT THE OTHERS BEFORE HE SUSPECTS I'M HERE!
BUT SUDDENLY, DISASTER STRIKES FROM AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE...
A DOG! HE HAS CAUGHT MY SCENT!
RRRWOOFF!
WHAT IS IT, BOY? WHY ARE YOU GROWLING? NOBODY IS THERE!
GRRR!
WAIT!! A DOG NEVER GROWLS FOR NO REASON! SOMEONE MUST BE THERE! AND IF I CAN'T SEE ANYONE, IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...
TOO BAD, INVISIBLE GIRL!! IT WON'T WORK! I KNOW YOU'RE THERE!
BECOME VISIBLE! THE MIRACLE MAN COMMANDS YOU!!
AHHH! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
AND NOW, YOU MUST OBEY ME!! I AM YOUR MASTER!!
SIGNAL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!! I SHALL DEFEAT THEM FOREVER, HERE AND NOW!!
17

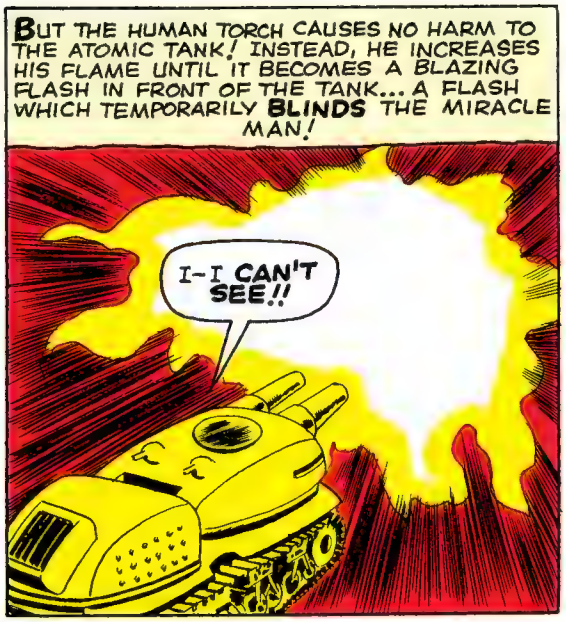
LIKE A GIRL IN A TRANCE, SUSAN STORM AIMS HER SMALL FLARE PISTOL INTO THE SKY, AND...
SO!! IT IS DONE! THIS MARKS THE FINISH OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THING!! LOOK! IT'S SUE'S SIGNAL!!
WELL! WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?
4
I HOPE SUE IS ALL RIGHT!! THE MIRACLE MAN IS A DANGEROUS FOE FOR ONE LONE GIRL!
SHE BETTER BE OKAY...FOR HIS SAKE!
MEANWHILE, AT A CORNER SODA FOUNTAIN...
HEY, JOHNNY, WHY CAN'T WE JOIN THE FANTASTIC FOUR? WE'RE YOUR PALS, AIN'T WE?
SHUDDUP, WILL YOU? I'VE GOTTA THINK!
WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU, CHUM?
IT'S THE THING! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GONNA HAVE A SHOWDOWN WITH THAT BIG SLOB, AND...
JOHNNY!! LOOK!
THE SIGNAL!!
SUE NEEDS ME!
4
TAKE US WITH YOU, JOHNNY!! C'MON, HUH?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU KNOW THAT! NOW STAND ASIDE BEFORE YOU GET BURNED!
BUT, JOHNNY--
WHERE THE HUMAN TORCH GOES, HE GOES ALONE!
18

CHAPTER V "THE FINAL CHALLENGE!"

FATE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS! WHO WOULD EVER DREAM THAT THE MOST POWERFUL FOES IN ALL THE WORLD WOULD HAVE THEIR LAST BATTLE IN A LONELY JUNK-YARD AT THE EDGE OF TOWN?!?!
YOUR MONSTER IS DESTROYED, MIRACLE MAN, AND NOW WE'VE FOUND YOU! THIS TIME YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
GET AWAY? YOU FOOLS! IT'S YOU WHO ARE TRAPPED! I'M ABOUT TO DESTROY YOU ALL!
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SCARIN' US WITH THAT OVERGROWN KEY, MISTER, YOU GOT ANOTHER THINK COMIN'!!
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
V-


AND NOW, FAREWELL! ...TO YOU ALL!
NOT SO FAST, MISTER...
I'LL SHOW YOU A LITTLE QUICK-CHANGE TRICK, TOO!
EVER TRY TO HIT A BOUNCING RUBBER BALL??
REED CAN'T DODGE THOSE DUM-DUMS FOREVER! I GOTTA DO SOMETHING!!
LIKE A LUMBERING DREADNAUGHT, THE MIGHTY THING RACES BETWEEN MR. FANTASTIC AND THE DEADLY SHELLS, LETTING HIS OWN INCREDIBLY STRONG BODY ABSORB THE FULL IMPACT OF THE BULLETS UNTIL...
UGH!! OOOFF--
AT LAST! HE'S OUTTA AMMO!
THING! YOU SAVED ME!
BIG DEAL!! YOU BETTER MOVE, BROTHER, BEFORE LAUGHING BOY GETS AWAY WITH SUE AGAIN!
BUT BEFORE THE EXHAUSTED MR. FANTASTIC, OR THE BATTERED THING CAN ACT, THE MIRACLE MAN REACHES THE ATOMIC TANK, AND...
HE'S ESCAPING!
20

REED! THING! WAIT!! I SAW THE MIRACLE MAN CUT THE DRIVE CABLE OF YOUR COPTER! IT'S DEATH TO USE IT!
THE TORCH!
ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE, JUNIOR!
QUICK! WE CAN STILL FOLLOW HIM IN ONE OF THESE ANTIQUE RACING CARS WHICH ARE STORED HERE BETWEEN EXHIBITIONS!!
HECK! I CAN FLY FASTER THAN THAT HEAP!
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU, LOUD-MOUTH?
35
BECAUSE THIS IS MORE FUN! WHEEEE!
CAN'T YOU EVER BE SERIOUS, BRAT? DIDJA FORGET THAT YOUR OWN SISTER IS THE MIRACLE MAN'S PRISONER?
35
LOOK OUT!!
HE HIT A TIRE!
WE'RE GONNA CRASH!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!!
HANG ON!!
35
HURRY UP AND CATCH HIM, WILL YOU?!! I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!
GRAB THE WHEEL, THING! I'LL FINISH THIS MY WAY!
35
TORCH, WAIT! WATCH OUT FOR SUE, YOU FOOL!!
21


BUT THE HUMAN TORCH CAUSES NO HARM TO THE ATOMIC TANK! INSTEAD, HE INCREASES HIS FLAME UNTIL IT BECOMES A BLAZING FLASH IN FRONT OF THE TANK... A FLASH WHICH TEMPORARILY BLINDS THE MIRACLE MAN!
I-I CAN'T SEE!!

AND, MINUTES LATER...
MY EYES-- MY EYES--
YOU'LL BE OKAY, BUSTER!! BUT IF YOU'VE HARMED MY SISTER...
HE DID IT!! THE TORCH DID IT!!
AND NOW IT'S MY TURN!!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR A LONG TIME...

HOLD IT, THING!!

YOU CAN'T DO IT!! YOU'LL KILL HIM!

HIS POWER IS GONE! HE'LL NEVER HURT ANYONE AGAIN! THE LAW CAN HANDLE HIM NOW!
HUH?? BUT HOW-- HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! FIRST, I WANT YOU TO BRING SUE OUT OF HER TRANCE!
DO AS I SAY, OR I'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THE THING!
4

I-I'LL DO IT!
YOU ARE YOURSELF AGAIN, SUSAN STORM!
SNAP

HE IS NO MIRACLE MAN! HE HAS NO MAGIC POWERS! HE IS MERELY A CLEVER HYPNOTIST, A MASTER OF MASS ILLUSION! THE MONSTER NEVER REALLY MOVED--HE HYPNOTIZED US INTO THINKING IT DID!
HE DIDN'T REALLY SPLIT THAT LOG ON STAGE WITH ONE FINGER... HE MADE EVERYONE THINK HE DID! AND THE SAME FOR ALL HIS SUPPOSEDLY MIRACULOUS FEATS!
HOW--HOW DID YOU GUESS?
BECAUSE A TRUE MIRACLE MAN WOULD NOT HAVE NEEDED TO STEAL JEWELS... HE COULD HAVE CONJURED UP ALL THE WEALTH IN THE WORLD! A MIRACLE MAN WOULD NOT HAVE NEEDED TO FLEE FROM US... YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY VANISHED... OR CAUSED US TO DISAPPEAR, FOREVER!
BUT NOW, YOUR HYPNOTIC POWER IS GONE, DUE TO TORCH'S ALMOST BLINDING FLASH!
WAIT A MINUTE, REED!! ARE YOU TRYIN' TO GIVE THAT FLAMING JUVENILE DELINQUENT THE CREDIT FOR THIS CAPER??
OH, PLEASE! DON'T START ARGUING AMONG YOURSELVES AGAIN!! I--I JUST CAN'T STAND ANY MORE!
RELAX, SIS! THEY'RE NOT GONNA ARGUE ABOUT ME ANY MORE! I HAD ALL THE BOSSIN' AROUND I CAN TAKE! I'M CUTTIN' OUT OF THIS COMBO, RIGHT NOW!
BUT YOU CAN'T QUIT US, JOHNNY!
AW, LET HIM GO! HE'S MORE TROUBLE THAN HE'S WORTH!
TORCH!! COME BACK! PLEASE!!
IT'S TOO LATE, SUE!
OH, REED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF HIM?
IT'S NOT HIM I'M WORRIED ABOUT...
...IT'S MANKIND! FOR WHAT WILL WE DO--
WHAT CAN WE DO, IF... IF HE SHOULD TURN AGAINST US?!!
NEXT ISSUE, THE SUSPENSE MOUNTS UNBEARABLY AS THE TORCH STRIKES BACK! AND DON'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE ANOTHER GREAT CHARACTER WHOM YOU DEMANDED WE BRING BACK! ALL IN THE NEXT WONDERFUL ISSUE!
23
THE END

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IND.
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
THE Fantastic Four
MC
4
MAY
STOP HIM! IF THE SUB-MARINER REACHES THE WATER, HE'LL BECOME INVINCIBLE!
"THE COMING OF THE SUB-MARINER!"
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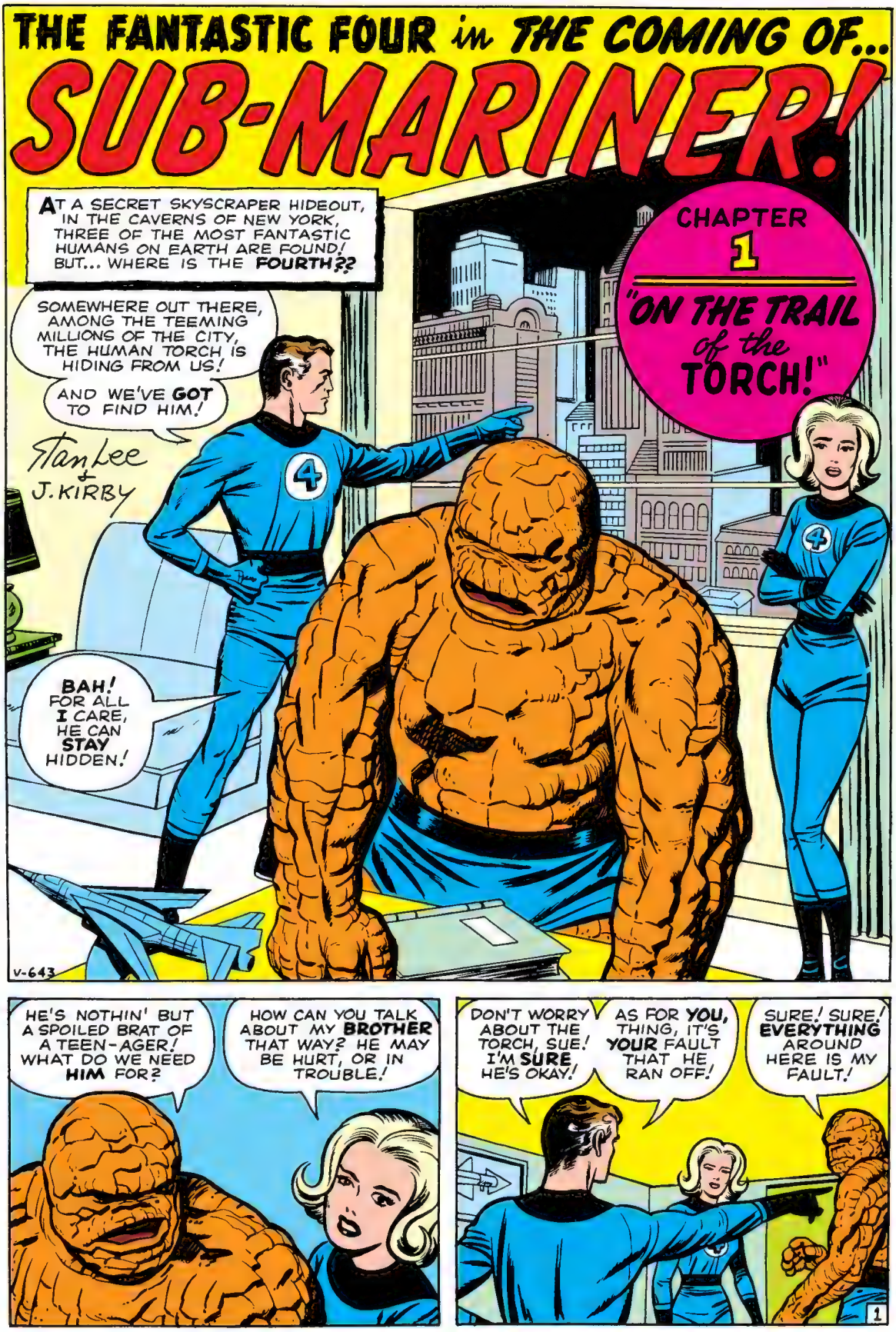
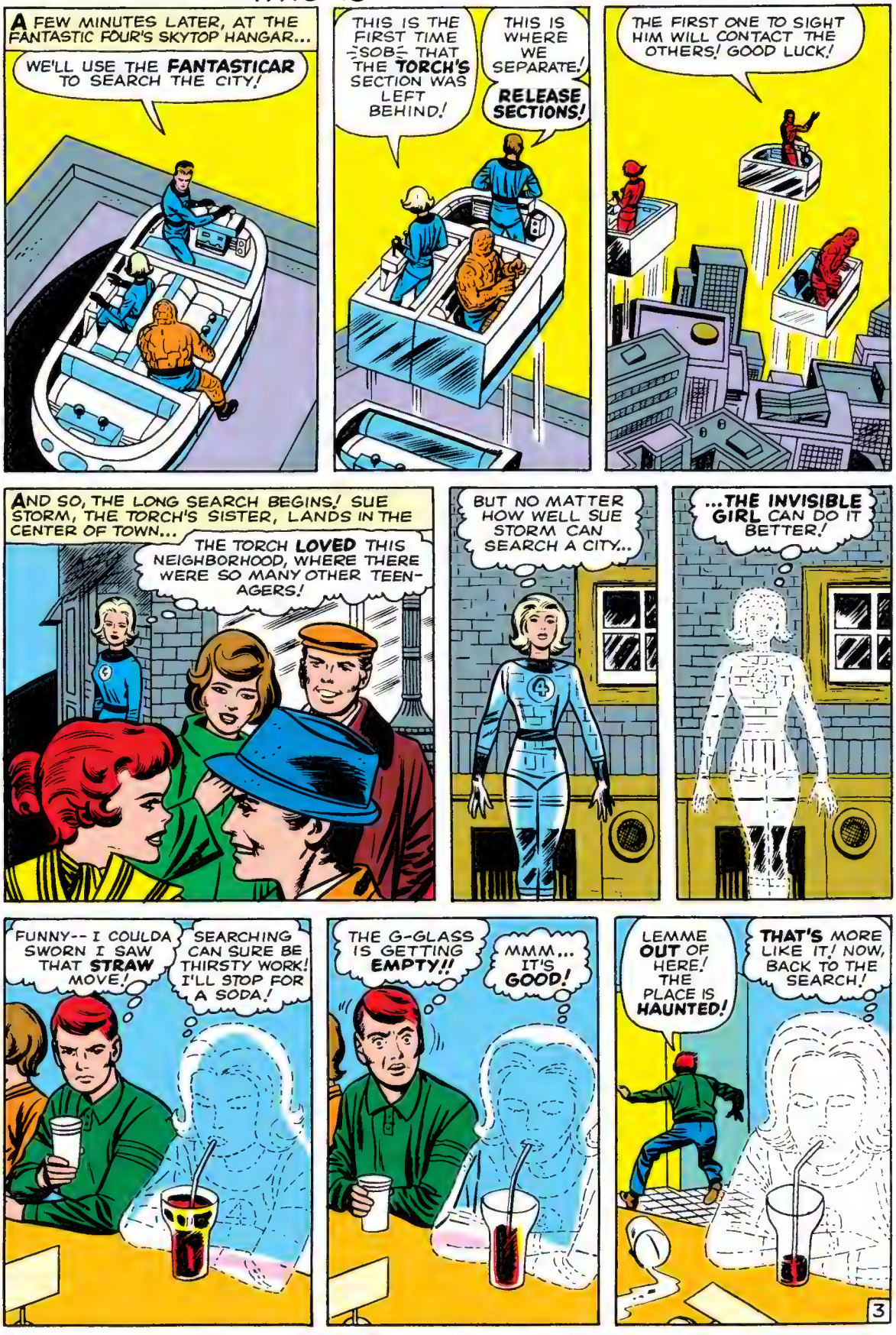
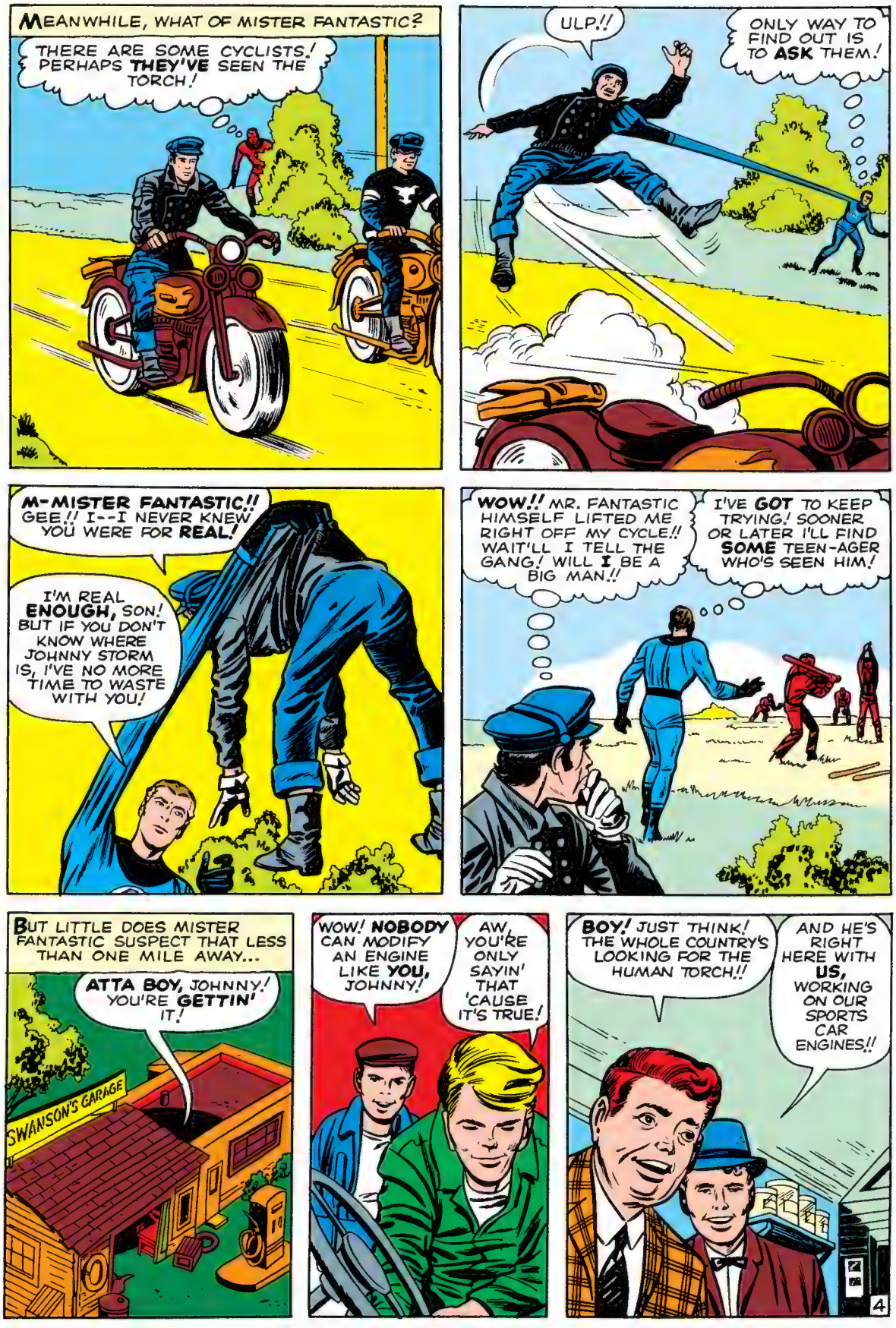

THE FANTASTIC FOUR in THE COMING OF...
SUB-MARINER!
AT A SECRET SKYSCRAPER HIDEOUT, IN THE CAVERNS OF NEW YORK, THREE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC HUMANS ON EARTH ARE FOUND! BUT... WHERE IS THE FOURTH??
CHAPTER 1
"ON THE TRAIL of the TORCH!"
SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, AMONG THE TEEMING MILLIONS OF THE CITY, THE HUMAN TORCH IS HIDING FROM US!
AND WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
BAH! FOR ALL I CARE, HE CAN STAY HIDDEN!
V-643
HE'S NOTHIN' BUT A SPOILED BRAT OF A TEEN-AGER! WHAT DO WE NEED HIM FOR?
HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT MY BROTHER THAT WAY? HE MAY BE HURT, OR IN TROUBLE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE TORCH, SUE! I'M SURE HE'S OKAY!
AS FOR YOU, THING, IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT HE RAN OFF!
SURE! SURE! EVERYTHING AROUND HERE IS MY FAULT!
1

"BUT IT IS YOUR FAULT, THING! YOUR FAULT THAT THE TORCH IS HIDING OUT FROM US, AS WELL AS FROM THE POLICE AND THE ARMY!
"REMEMBER HOW HE TACKLED THE MONSTER WHICH THE MIRACLE MAN HAD BROUGHT TO LIFE?* HE WAS ONE OF US, THEN!
(*SEE "FANTASTIC FOUR" #3 MARCH)
"SINGLE-HANDED, HE FOUGHT THE ENORMOUS CREATURE...
"--AND SINGLE-HANDED HE DEFEATED HIM!!
"FINALLY, THANKS TO THE TORCH, OUR ATOMIC CANNON WAS RETURNED SAFELY TO THE ARMY! EVERYONE WAS HAPPY ABOUT IT, THING, BUT NOT YOU!
"NO! YOU WERE JEALOUS OF THE TORCH'S ACHIEVEMENT, AND SO YOU PICKED AN ARGUMENT WITH HIM--AN ARGUMENT WHICH MADE HIM WANT TO DESERT ALL OF US!"
I'M THRU WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR, UNDERSTAND? THRU!
TORCH! WAIT!!
WELL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET IT END THAT WAY!! WE'RE GOING TO FIND THAT BOY!! AND THAT MEANS YOU TOO, THING!!
YOU BET IT MEANS ME! AND WHEN I DO FIND 'IM, I'LL TEACH HIM TO RUN OFF ON US THAT WAY!
OH, REED! IF HE HARMS THE TORCH--
EASY, SUE! HE WON'T HURT HIM! I SWEAR IT!
2

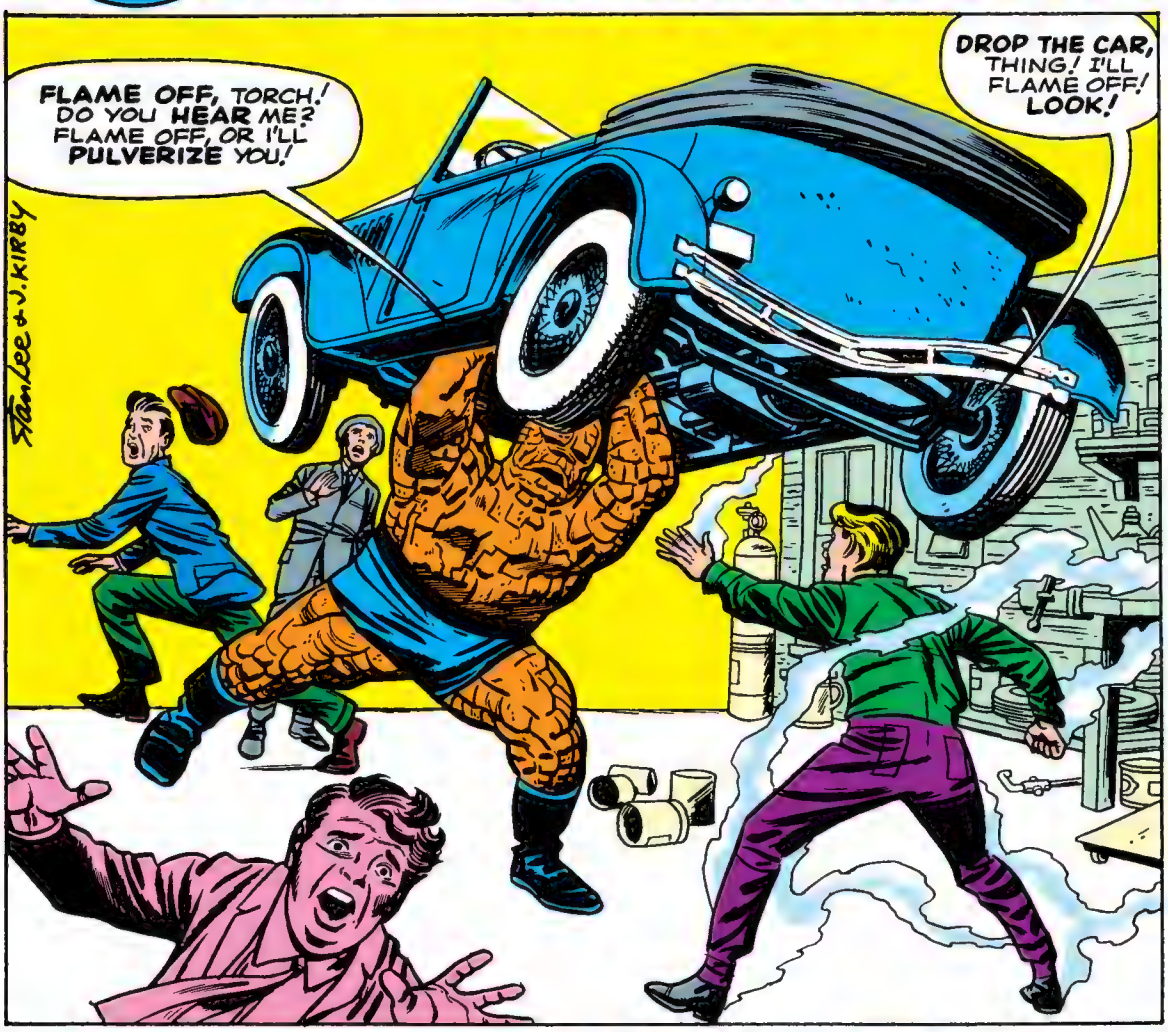
THE HULK IS COMING!

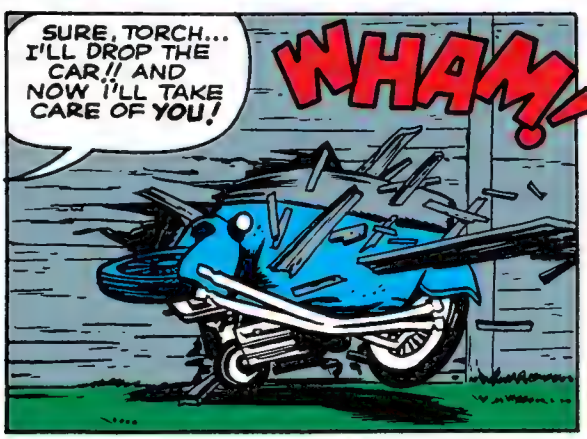

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S SKYTOP HANGAR...
WE'LL USE THE FANTASTICAR TO SEARCH THE CITY!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME -SOB- THAT THE TORCH'S SECTION WAS LEFT BEHIND!
THIS IS WHERE WE SEPARATE!
RELEASE SECTIONS!
THE FIRST ONE TO SIGHT HIM WILL CONTACT THE OTHERS! GOOD LUCK!
AND SO, THE LONG SEARCH BEGINS! SUE STORM, THE TORCH'S SISTER, LANDS IN THE CENTER OF TOWN...
THE TORCH LOVED THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, WHERE THERE WERE SO MANY OTHER TEEN-AGERS!
BUT NO MATTER HOW WELL SUE STORM CAN SEARCH A CITY...
...THE INVISIBLE GIRL CAN DO IT BETTER!
FUNNY-- I COULDA SWORN I SAW THAT STRAW MOVE!
SEARCHING CAN SURE BE THIRSTY WORK! I'LL STOP FOR A SODA!
THE G-GLASS IS GETTING EMPTY!!
MMM... IT'S GOOD!
LEMME OUT OF HERE! THE PLACE IS HAUNTED!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! NOW, BACK TO THE SEARCH!
3


MEANWHILE, WHAT OF MISTER FANTASTIC?
THERE ARE SOME CYCLISTS! PERHAPS THEY'VE SEEN THE TORCH!
ULP!!
ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO ASK THEM!
M-MISTER FANTASTIC!! GEE!! I--I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE FOR REAL!
I'M REAL ENOUGH, SON! BUT IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE JOHNNY STORM IS, I'VE NO MORE TIME TO WASTE WITH YOU!
WOW!! MR. FANTASTIC HIMSELF LIFTED ME RIGHT OFF MY CYCLE!! WAIT'LL I TELL THE GANG! WILL I BE A BIG MAN!!
I'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING! SOONER OR LATER I'LL FIND SOME TEEN-AGER WHO'S SEEN HIM!
BUT LITTLE DOES MISTER FANTASTIC SUSPECT THAT LESS THAN ONE MILE AWAY...
ATTA BOY, JOHNNY! YOU'RE GETTIN' IT!
SWANSON'S GARAGE
WOW! NOBODY CAN MODIFY AN ENGINE LIKE YOU, JOHNNY!
AW, YOU'RE ONLY SAYIN' THAT 'CAUSE IT'S TRUE!
BOY! JUST THINK! THE WHOLE COUNTRY'S LOOKING FOR THE HUMAN TORCH!!
AND HE'S RIGHT HERE WITH US, WORKING ON OUR SPORTS CAR ENGINES!!
4

I'VE GOTTA DO A LITTLE WELDING BEFORE I CAN FIX THOSE GASKETS!
SO, HERE GOES!
FLAME ON!
HEY, GANG! DIG THAT!
THIS BEATS A WELDING IRON ANY DAY!
AND IF THERE'S A REAL BIG WELDING JOB TO DO...
NOTICE HOW I CAN CONTROL MY FLAME? BY NOT MOVING, IT DOESN'T GO NEAR THE GASOLINE!
BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, OUTSIDE THE GARAGE...
BEFORE I KNOCK MYSELF OUT SEARCHING THE WHOLE CITY, I'LL PLAY A HUNCH!
THAT BRAT USED TO HANG AROUND HERE, FIDDLIN' WITH HOT RODS, EVERY CHANCE HE GOT!
HEY!! I CAN FEEL THE HEAT! HE'S INSIDE!
THE THING!!
YOU'RE BLAMED RIGHT IT'S THE THING, TORCH!! AND NOW I'LL TEACH YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO DESERTERS!
AND YOUR FLAME DOESN'T SCARE ME NOW! I KNOW YOU CAN'T MOVE WHILE YOU'RE BURNING, BECAUSE THERE'S GASOLINE ALL OVER HERE! ONE SPARK AND YOUR PALS ARE DONE FOR!

CHAPTER 2 ENTER THE SUB-MARINER!

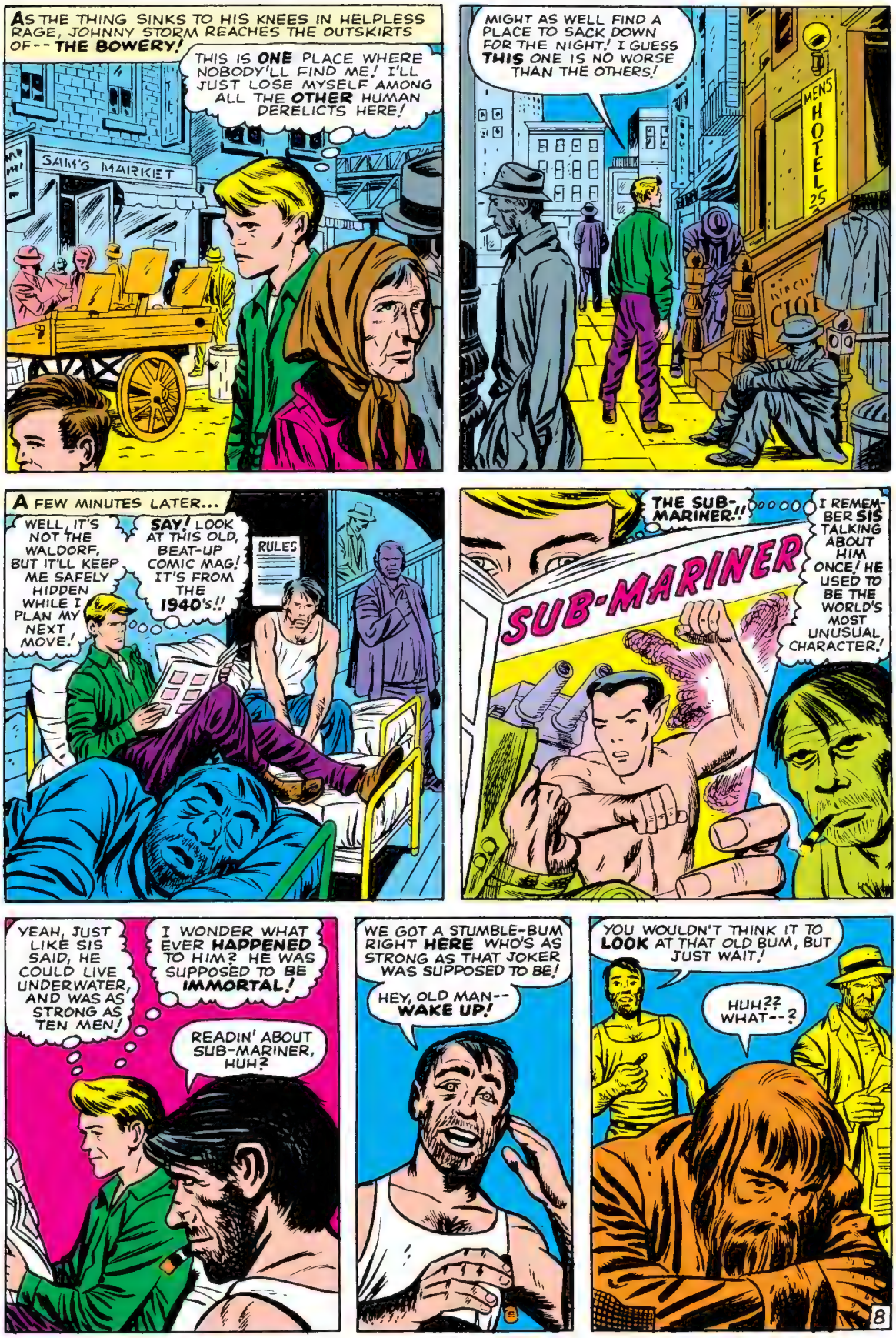




DON'T WORRY, SONNY BOY... I'M NOT GONNA SPOIL YOUR PRETTY FEATURES! I'LL JUST ROUGH YOU UP A LITTLE... TEACH YOU WHO'S BOSS, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
DON'T TRY IT, THING! I'M WARNIN' YOU!
YOU'RE WARNING ME??!!
WHY, I'LL...
HEY!! WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?!! I-I'M CHANGING!
I'M HUMAN AGAIN!! I'M BEN GRIMM AGAIN!! AT LAST! AT LAST!
A MAN!! I'M A MAN! A NORMAL HUMAN BEING!
NOW'S MY CHANCE! HE'S FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME!
GO ON, TORCH! FLY OFF! WHAT DO I CARE! HA HA! I'M HUMAN AGAIN!
THE POOR FOOL! HE SHOULD KNOW BY NOW HIS CHANGE IS ONLY TEMPORARY!
SWANSON'S GARAGE
FLY AWAY, YOU FLAMING FREAK!! WHO CARES? WHO...
MY HANDS! MY ARMS! I'M TURNING BACK! BACK INTO... INTO...
A... THING!
7

WHAT IS THE HULK??

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE THE HULK!

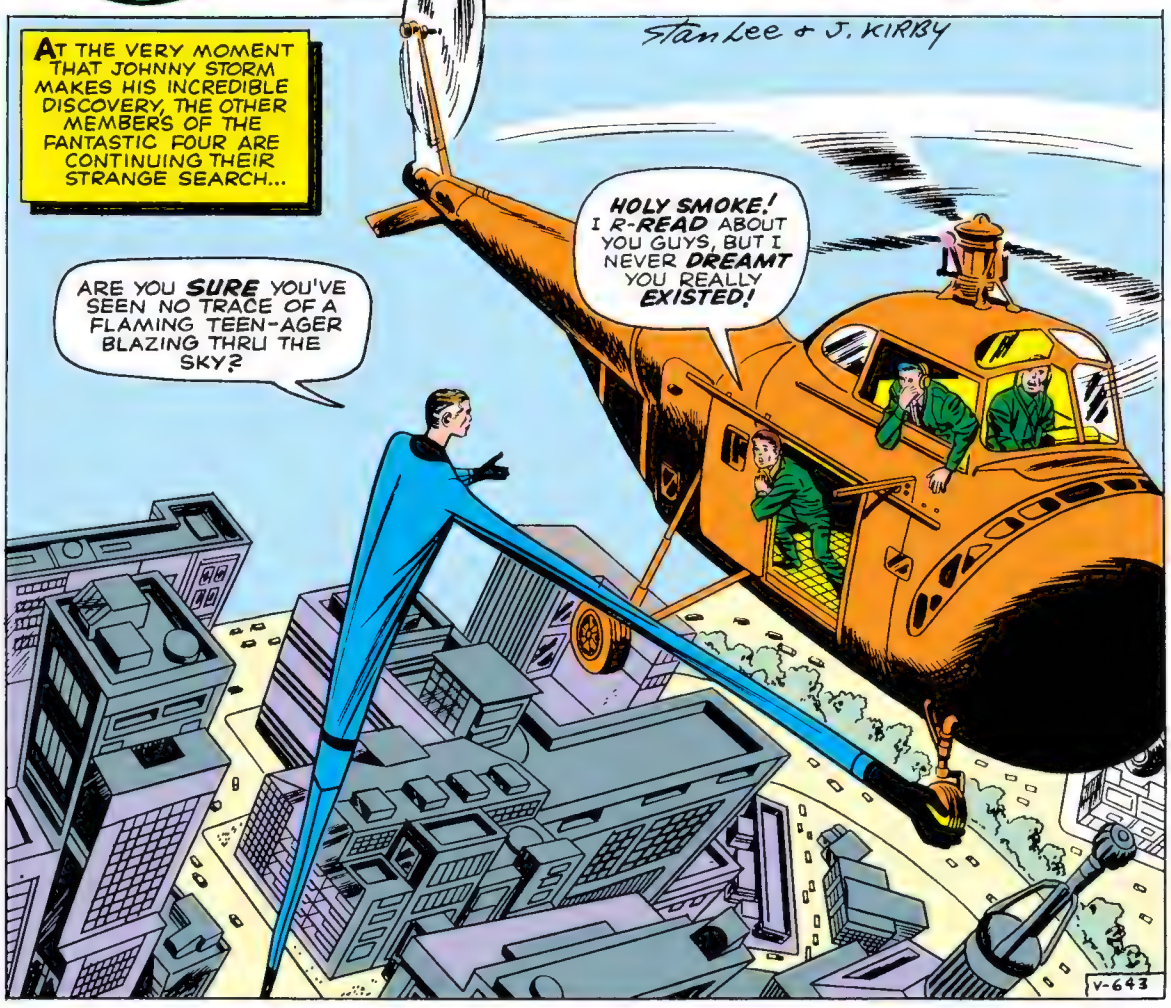

AS THE THING SINKS TO HIS KNEES IN HELPLESS RAGE, JOHNNY STORM REACHES THE OUTSKIRTS OF--THE BOWERY!
THIS IS ONE PLACE WHERE NOBODY'LL FIND ME! I'LL JUST LOSE MYSELF AMONG ALL THE OTHER HUMAN DERELICTS HERE!
SAM'S MAIRKIET
MIGHT AS WELL FIND A PLACE TO SACK DOWN FOR THE NIGHT! I GUESS THIS ONE IS NO WORSE THAN THE OTHERS!
MENS HOTEL 25
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WELL, IT'S NOT THE WALDORF, BUT IT'LL KEEP ME SAFELY HIDDEN WHILE I PLAN MY NEXT MOVE!
SAY! LOOK AT THIS OLD, BEAT-UP COMIC MAG! IT'S FROM THE 1940's!!
RULES
THE SUB-MARINER!!
SUB-MARINER
I REMEMBER SIS TALKING ABOUT HIM ONCE! HE USED TO BE THE WORLD'S MOST UNUSUAL CHARACTER!
YEAH, JUST LIKE SIS SAID, HE COULD LIVE UNDERWATER, AND WAS AS STRONG AS TEN MEN!
I WONDER WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO HIM? HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IMMORTAL!
READIN' ABOUT SUB-MARINER, HUH?
WE GOT A STUMBLE-BUM RIGHT HERE WHO'S AS STRONG AS THAT JOKER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE!
HEY, OLD MAN--WAKE UP!
YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT TO LOOK AT THAT OLD BUM, BUT JUST WAIT!
HUH?? WHAT--?

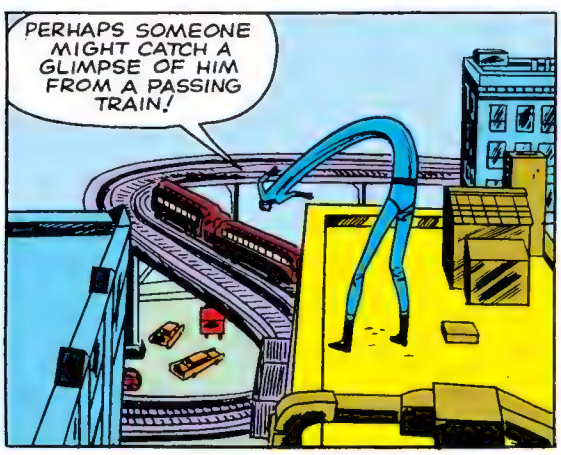
C'MON, OLD MAN! WE GOT US A NEW TENANT! SHOW HIM WHAT YA CAN DO!
GO 'WAY... I WANNA SLEEP! LEMME BE!
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE OLD FELLA ALONE? HE'S PROBABLY TIRED!
HE'S NEVER TOO TIRED TO SHOW HOW STRONG HE IS, ARE YA, OLD MAN?
COME ON, YA MANGY BUM, TEAR THIS PHONE BOOK IN HALF! TEAR IT, I SAID!
POW
GO AWAY, YOU PUNY FLEA!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS-- LET'S TEACH 'IM A LITTLE LITTLE LESSON!
GET 'IM!!
YAY!! I BEEN SPOILIN' FOR A GOOD FIGHT!
I SAID...
POW
GO AWAY...
WHAM!
...ALL OF YOU!!
BAM
9

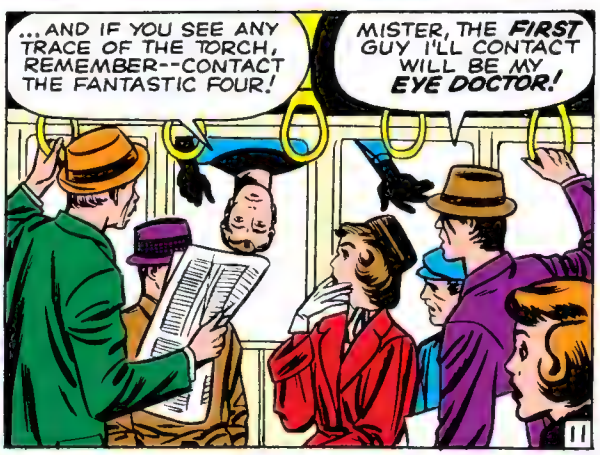
IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER WHO I AM!! WHAT I AM!! WHY HAVE I SPENT THE LONG YEARS HERE, IN A FOG, WITH MY MIND A BLANK??
LOOK! HE'S TIRED! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
TRY TO PUSH US AROUND, WILL HE?
I NEVER DID LIKE THE CREEP!
HOLD ON! LET HIM ALONE!
CAN'T YOU SEE, HE'S ILL? HE'S GOT AMNESIA! A LOSS OF MEMORY! HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHO HE IS!!
YEAH? WELL, WE'RE GONNA HELP 'IM TO FIND HIS MEMORY!!
SURE! WE'LL BEAT IT BACK INTO HIM!
WHY BOTHER? I'LL SHOW YOU AN EASIER WAY!
FIRST, WE'VE GOTTA SEE WHAT HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE!
SO LET'S GIVE 'IM A LITTLE SHAVE!
FLAME ON!
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!!
HOLY COW! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!
SEE HOW SIMPLE IT IS, WHEN YOU KNOW HOW?
I CAN CONTROL THE FLAME OF MY BODY TO WITHIN A HAIR'S WIDTH!
WAIT!! HIS FACE! NO--IT-- CAN'T BE!!
IT IS! IT IS!! HE--HE'S THE SUB-MARINER!
10

CHAPTER 3

LET THE WORLD BEWARE!


Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
AT THE VERY MOMENT THAT JOHNNY STORM MAKES HIS INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE CONTINUING THEIR STRANGE SEARCH...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE SEEN NO TRACE OF A FLAMING TEEN-AGER BLAZING THRU THE SKY?
HOLY SMOKE! I R-READ ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I NEVER DREAMT YOU REALLY EXISTED!
V-643




...AND IF YOU SEE ANY TRACE OF THE TORCH, REMEMBER--CONTACT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
MISTER, THE FIRST GUY I'LL CONTACT WILL BE MY EYE DOCTOR!
11

SUE STORM, TOO, PROWLS THE VAST METROPOLIS IN HER OTHER IDENTITY AS THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
THE BOWERY! HAVEN OF LOST SOULS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT JOHNNY WOULD EVER COME HERE!
C'MON, PAL! IF YOU ARE THE SUB-MARINER, I KNOW THE ONE THING THAT'LL BRING BACK YOUR MEMORY!
NO, I'M WASTING MY TIME HERE! I'LL GO AND SEARCH SOME OTHER PART OF TOWN!
THUS DOES DESTINY TOY WITH THE LIVES OF HUMANS! AND SO, UNWITTINGLY, THE INVISIBLE GIRL WALKS AWAY FROM THE VERY ONE SHE SEEKS!
OKAY, THE COAST IS CLEAR...
FLAME ON!
RELAX, MISTER! I'M NOT GONNA DROP YOU! NOT TILL WE COME TO...
...THE SEA!
IF HE IS THE SUB-MARINER, THE WATER WILL BRING BACK HIS MEMORY AND HIS FULL POWERS! IF NOT, I'LL DIVE IN AND SAVE HIM!
ONCE SUBMERGED IN THE MIGHTY SEA, A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE STRANGE DERELICT! IN ONE SWEEPING MOTION, HE HURLS HIS OUTER GARMENTS FROM HIM...
AND STANDS REVEALED AS THE LEGENDARY PRINCE OF THE SEA... THE INVINCIBLE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER!!
I REMEMBER NOW!! I AM THE SUB-MARINER! MY FAMILY-- MY FRIENDS! MY UNDERSEA KINGDOM... I MUST RETURN!!
12

WHAT IS THE HULK??

TRAVELLING IN HIS NATIVE ELEMENT LIKE A CAREENING TORPEDO, PRINCE NAMOR SOON REACHES HIS ALMOST-FORGOTTON LAND, ONLY TO FIND...
DESTROYED!! IT'S ALL DESTROYED!!

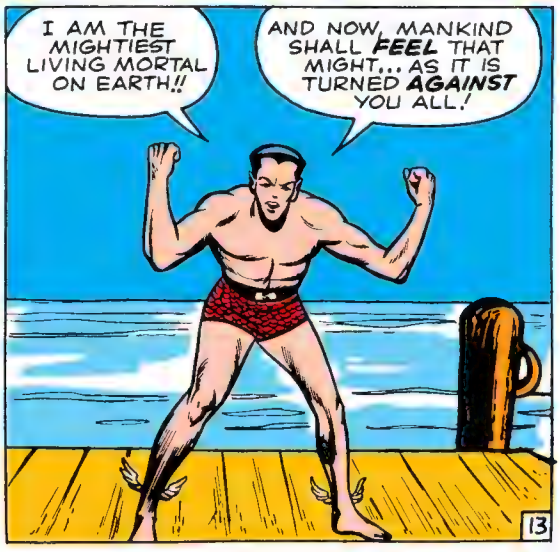
THAT GLOW IN THE WATER--IT'S RADIOACTIVITY!! NOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!!
THE HUMANS DID IT, UNTHINKINGLY, WITH THEIR ACCURSED ATOMIC TESTS!

MY PEOPLE COULD NOT BE HARMED BY RADIATION, BUT WHEN THEIR HOMES WERE DESTROYED, THEY MUST HAVE GONE ELSEWHERE! THE OCEANS ARE VAST, ENDLESS! HOW SHALL I EVER FIND THEM?

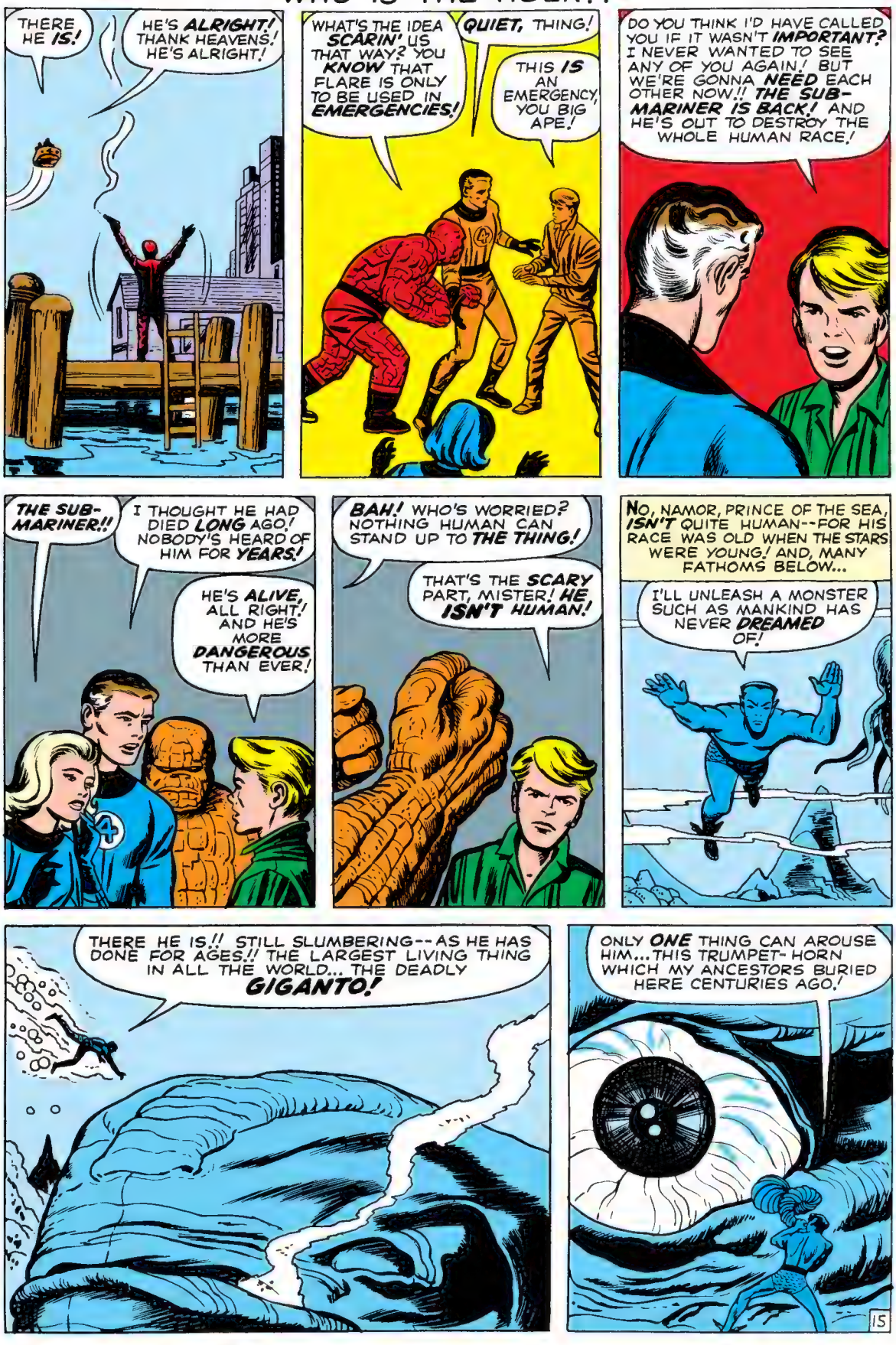
MINUTES LATER...
BUT THE HUMANS SHALL PAY FOR THIS! I SWEAR IT!
HE'S BACK!!

YOU YOUNG FOOL!! DO NOT FEEL PROUD OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE!!
FOR, BY RETURNING MY MEMORY, YOU HAVE SIGNED THE DEATH WARRANT OF THE HUMAN RACE!

WHA--? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
REVENGE!! I'M TALKING ABOUT THE REVENGE I SHALL HAVE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MY UNDERSEA KINGDOM!!


I AM THE MIGHTIEST LIVING MORTAL ON EARTH!!
AND NOW, MANKIND SHALL FEEL THAT MIGHT... AS IT IS TURNED AGAINST YOU ALL!

CHAPTER 4
SUB-MARINER'S REVENGE!
NO SOONER DOES NAMOR UTTER THOSE FATEFUL WORDS, THAN THE THREE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY FOURSOME, BACK AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS AGAIN, PLANNING THEIR NEXT MOVE, SEE...
LOOK!!
A FLARE!! IT MUST BE THE TORCH! LET'S GO!!
HURRY!! HE MUST BE IN DANGER! IT'S THE EMERGENCY SIGNAL!!
Stan Lee - J. KIRBY
AND, IN THE STREETS BELOW, ALL EYES TURN SKYWARD, AS THEY BEHOLD THE MOST DRAMATIC, MOST EXCITING SECRET SYMBOL OF ALL!!
IT CAME FROM THE WATERFRONT! I KNEW HE'D NEED US! THAT BRAT CAN'T STAY OUTTA TROUBLE WITHOUT US!
FASTER, REED! FASTER!
EASY, SUE! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
14

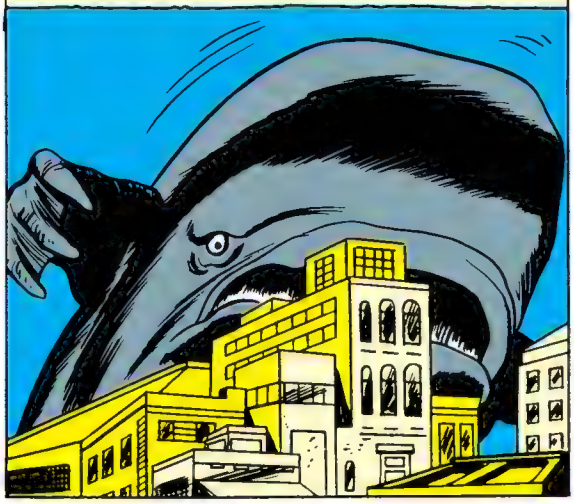

THERE HE IS!
HE'S ALRIGHT! THANK HEAVENS! HE'S ALRIGHT!
WHAT'S THE IDEA SCARIN' US THAT WAY? YOU KNOW THAT FLARE IS ONLY TO BE USED IN EMERGENCIES!
QUIET, THING!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, YOU BIG APE!
DO YOU THINK I'D HAVE CALLED YOU IF IT WASN'T IMPORTANT? I NEVER WANTED TO SEE ANY OF YOU AGAIN! BUT WE'RE GONNA NEED EACH OTHER NOW!! THE SUB-MARINER IS BACK! AND HE'S OUT TO DESTROY THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE!
THE SUB-MARINER!!
I THOUGHT HE HAD DIED LONG AGO! NOBODY'S HEARD OF HIM FOR YEARS!
HE'S ALIVE, ALL RIGHT! AND HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!
BAH! WHO'S WORRIED? NOTHING HUMAN CAN STAND UP TO THE THING!
THAT'S THE SCARY PART, MISTER! HE ISN'T HUMAN!
NO, NAMOR, PRINCE OF THE SEA, ISN'T QUITE HUMAN--FOR HIS RACE WAS OLD WHEN THE STARS WERE YOUNG! AND, MANY FATHOMS BELOW...
I'LL UNLEASH A MONSTER SUCH AS MANKIND HAS NEVER DREAMED OF!
THERE HE IS!! STILL SLUMBERING--AS HE HAS DONE FOR AGES!! THE LARGEST LIVING THING IN ALL THE WORLD... THE DEADLY GIGANTO!
ONLY ONE THING CAN AROUSE HIM...THIS TRUMPET-HORN WHICH MY ANCESTORS BURIED HERE CENTURIES AGO!

HEARING THE EERIE, UNDERSEA BLAST, WITH ONE EARTH-SHAKING SHRUG, THE UNDERSEA BEHEMOTH SHAKES OFF THE SLEEP OF AGES, AND...
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE AWAKENED THE MONSTER! NOW NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!
HE'LL FOLLOW THE TRUMPET-HORN WHEREVER IT LEADS...
AND, IN THE HANDS OF SUB-MARINER, IT LEADS TO-- THE SURFACE WORLD!
FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN... LOOK!!
MINDLESSLY, THE GIGANTIC CREATURE SPLINTERS THE OLD TRAMP STEAMER, AS THE CREW ESCAPES TO SOUND THE ALARM...
WE--WE ARE TOO SMALL FOR HIM TO NOTICE!
I'VE GOT THE EMERGENCY RADIO WORKING, SIR!
AND, WITHIN SECONDS...
I KNOW IT SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT...
NOWADAYS, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!
THEY SAID IT'S HEADED TOWARDS NEW YORK!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THE INCREDIBLE ORDER IS GIVEN... EVACUATE NEW YORK!
DON'T PANIC!! JUST KEEP MOVING!
HURRY! HURRY!
AND, THRU THE NOW-SILENT CANYONS OF THE DESERTED CITY, THE NATION'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS ARE BROUGHT INTO POSITION!
HERE IT COMES!

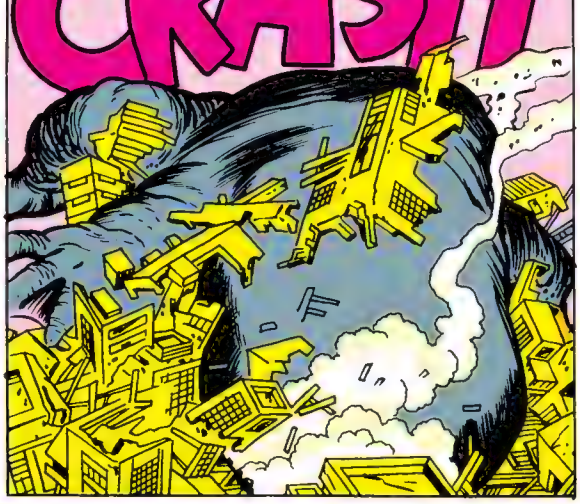
FIRE!
LOOK AT THAT! IT MUST BE THE WORK OF SUB-MARINER! BUT HOW CAN WE FIGHT IT? IT--IT'S BIG AS A MOUNTAIN!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CITY? THERE'S NOT A WEAPON ON EARTH THAT WILL STOP A CREATURE LIKE THAT!
HEY! THERE'S REED!! HE'S TACKLING IT IN HIS FANTASTICAR!
PERHAPS THIS CHEMICAL SMOKE SCREEN WILL CONFUSE IT... SLOW IT DOWN BEFORE IT REACHES THE SHORE!
I'VE GOT TO HELP.. SOMEHOW!
TORCH! COME BACK!
IT HAS A WATER-SPOUT, LIKE A WHALE! I'M CAUGHT IN IT! MY FLAME IS OUT! I--I'LL FALL TO EARTH!!
GOT YOU!!
WHEW! JUST WHEN A FELLA NEEDS A FRIEND!
HE'S NOT MOVING FAST ENOUGH! I'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO GO ASHORE!
THIS WILL DO IT! HE'LL FOLLOW THE SOUND OF THIS HORN ANYWHERE!
17

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE THE HULK!

LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF AN UNBELIEVABLE NIGHTMARE, THE HULKING MOUNTAIN OF FLESH WHICH IS GIGANTO SLOWLY TURNS, FOLLOWING THE SOUND OF THE PIERCING TRUMPET-HORN, AND THEN...



CRASH



HE'S ON SHORE! HE'LL WRECK ALL OF NEW YORK IF HE ISN'T STOPPED!!

ONE SIDE, WOMAN!! I GOT ME AN IDEA!

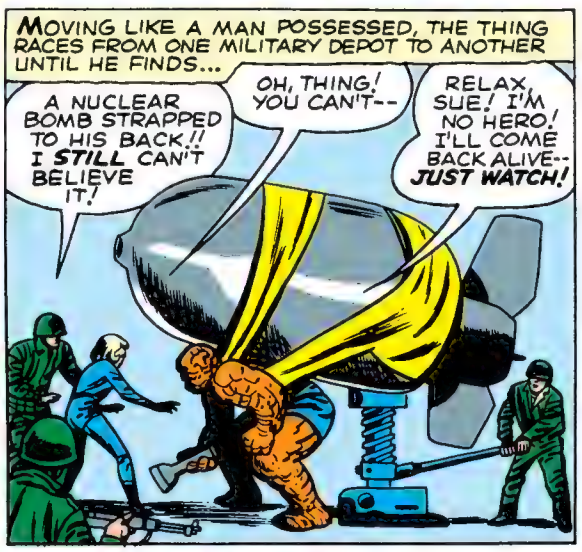
WHAT ***IS*** IT, THING? WHAT CAN ***YOU*** DO?

MOVING LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, THE THING RACES FROM ONE MILITARY DEPOT TO ANOTHER UNTIL HE FINDS...

A NUCLEAR BOMB STRAPPED TO HIS BACK!! I ***STILL*** CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

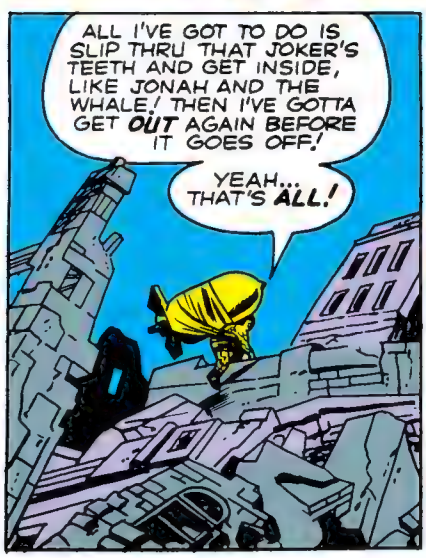
OH, THING! YOU CAN'T--

RELAX, SUE! I'M NO HERO! I'LL COME BACK ALIVE-- ***JUST WATCH!***



ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS SLIP THRU THAT JOKER'S TEETH AND GET INSIDE, LIKE JONAH AND THE WHALE! THEN I'VE GOTTA GET ***OUT*** AGAIN BEFORE IT GOES OFF!

YEAH... THAT'S ***ALL!***



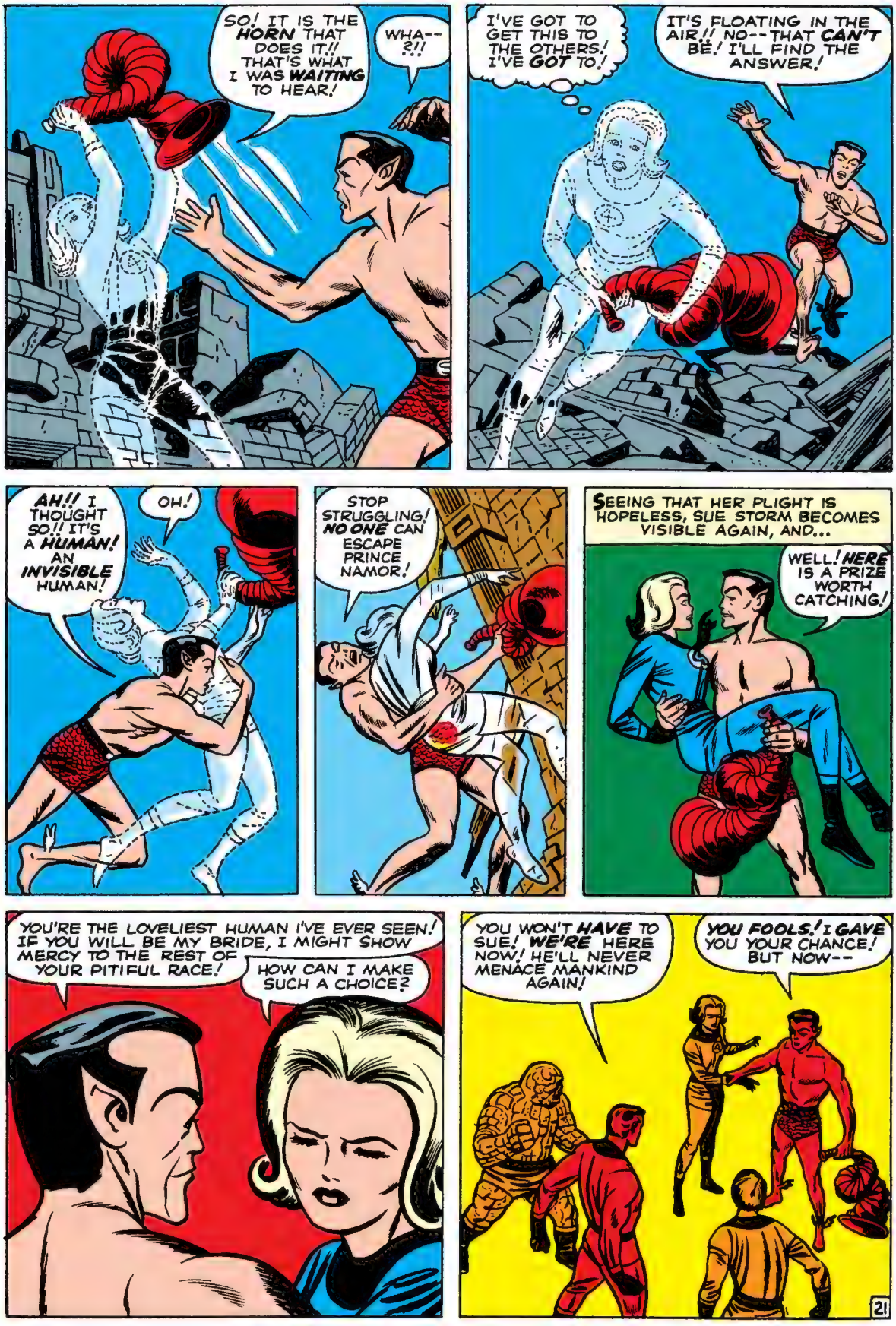
HE'S ***RESTIN'*** NOW! GOOD THING HE BREATHES THRU HIS MOUTH!!

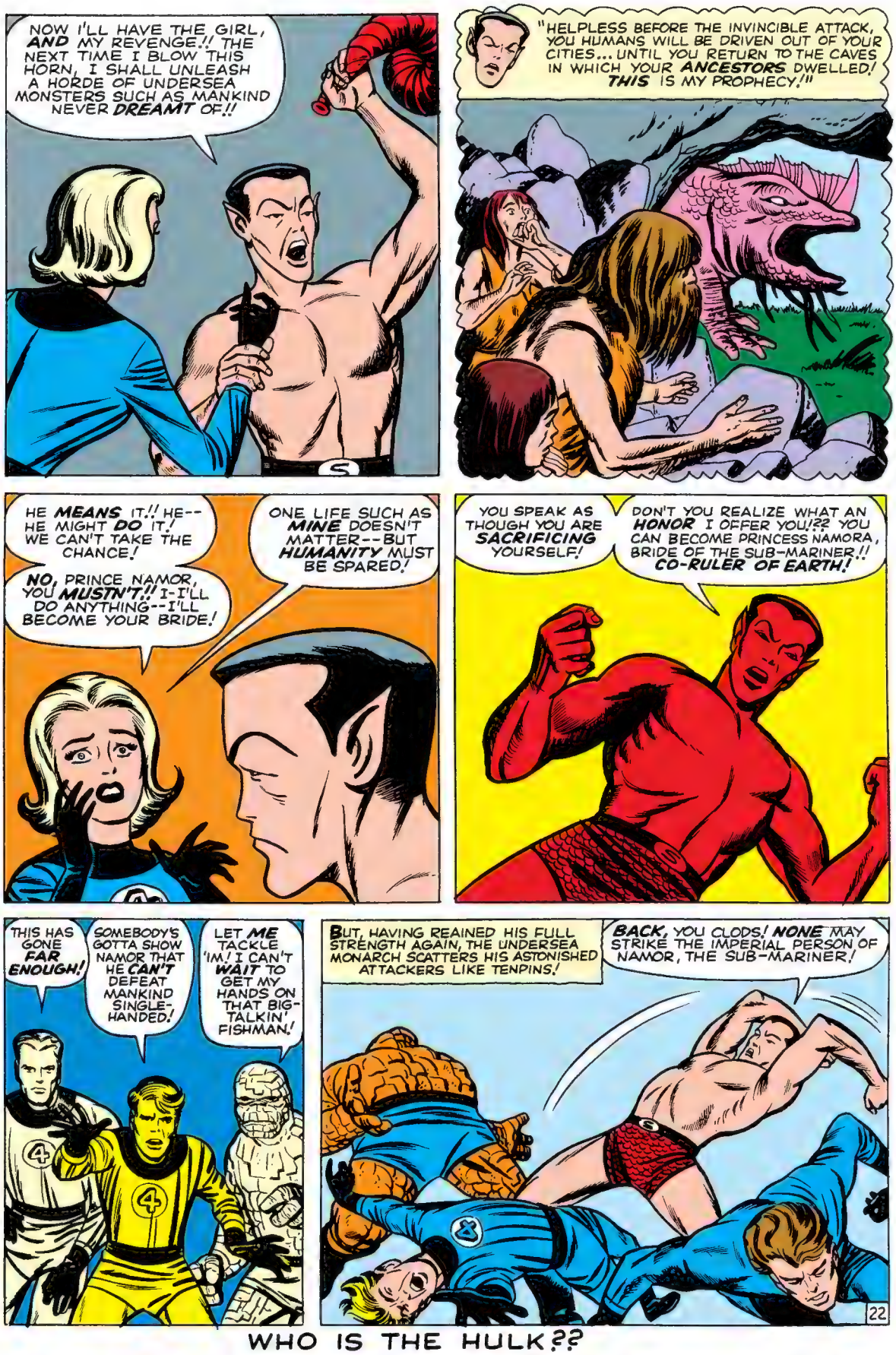
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING!

IT SURE IS AN EERIE FEELING! I'M SO SMALL TO HIM, HE DOESN'T EVEN ***NOTICE*** ME!

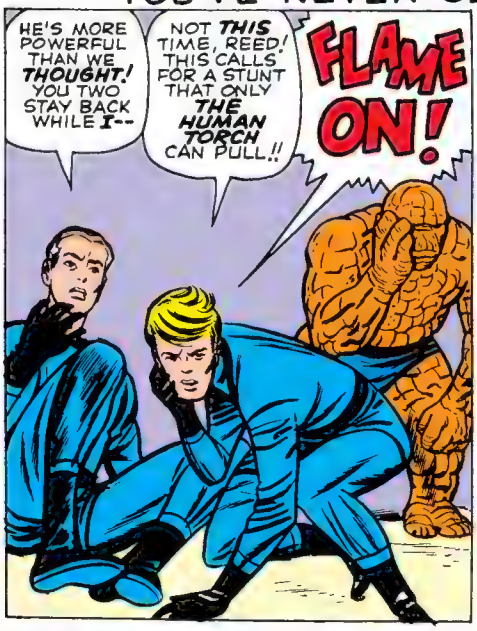
CHAPTER 5
"RETURN TO THE DEEP!"
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
SLOWLY, WARILY, KNOWING THAT EACH STEP MIGHT BE HIS LAST, THE THING STALKS DEEPER AND DEEPER INSIDE THE GIGANTIC SEA CREATURE...
V-643
...PAST THE LONG-SINCE FORGOTTEN REMAINS OF ANCIENT VESSELS...OCEAN CRAFT WHICH HAD FALLEN VICTIM TO GIGANTO, LONG AGES AGO!
AND THEN, SUDDENLY...
AND HERE'S ONE OF 'EM!
YEOW! I SHOULDA GUESSED! A GIANT LIKE HIM WOULD BE APT TO SWALLOW LOTS OF UNDERSEA MONSTERS ALIVE!
19

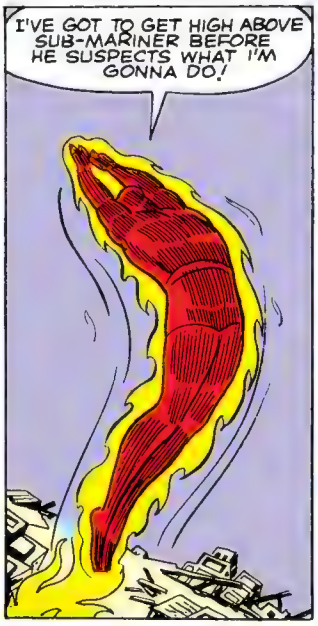
AND, AS THE TIMING ELEMENT OF THE DEADLY BOMB TICKS ON...
WELL, I'VE FOUGHT EVERYTHING ELSE IN MY TIME, SO...
TICK TICK TICK TICK
I MIGHT AS WELL TACKLE YOU, TOO!
THAT DOES IT!
BUT NOW, I'VE ONLY SECONDS TO SPARE! IF HIS MOUTH IS SHUT NOW, I'M A GONER!
TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK
MADE IT!! UGH
BOOOM
HE DID IT!! THE MONSTER IS DEAD!
HE SAVED THE CITY! PERHAPS THE WORLD!
EASY! DON'T DROP HIM, JOHNNY! THE SHOCK MUST HAVE KNOCKED HIM OUT!!
I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING COULD STUN THE BIG GORILLA!
AH--HE'S COMING TO NOW!
I HATE TO SAY IT, THING... BUT, I'M PROUD OF YOU!
BIG DEAL! THAT, AND A DIME, WILL GET ME A CUP OF COFFEE!
QUIET, YOU TWO! WHO'S THAT?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH WHO I AM! THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW THE SUB-MARINER!!
YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME YET! AS LONG AS I HAVE THIS HORN, I CAN SUMMON COUNTLESS OTHER SEA MONSTERS TO ATTACK YOU!


SO! IT IS THE HORN THAT DOES IT!! THAT'S WHAT I WAS WAITING TO HEAR!
WHA--?!!
I'VE GOT TO GET THIS TO THE OTHERS! I'VE GOT TO!
IT'S FLOATING IN THE AIR!! NO--THAT CAN'T BE! I'LL FIND THE ANSWER!
AH!! I THOUGHT SO!! IT'S A HUMAN! AN INVISIBLE HUMAN!
OH!
STOP STRUGGLING! NO ONE CAN ESCAPE PRINCE NAMOR!
SEEING THAT HER PLIGHT IS HOPELESS, SUE STORM BECOMES VISIBLE AGAIN, AND...
WELL! HERE IS A PRIZE WORTH CATCHING!
YOU'RE THE LOVELIEST HUMAN I'VE EVER SEEN! IF YOU WILL BE MY BRIDE, I MIGHT SHOW MERCY TO THE REST OF YOUR PITIFUL RACE!
HOW CAN I MAKE SUCH A CHOICE?
YOU WON'T HAVE TO SUE! WE'RE HERE NOW! HE'LL NEVER MENACE MANKIND AGAIN!
YOU FOOLS! I GAVE YOU YOUR CHANCE! BUT NOW--
21

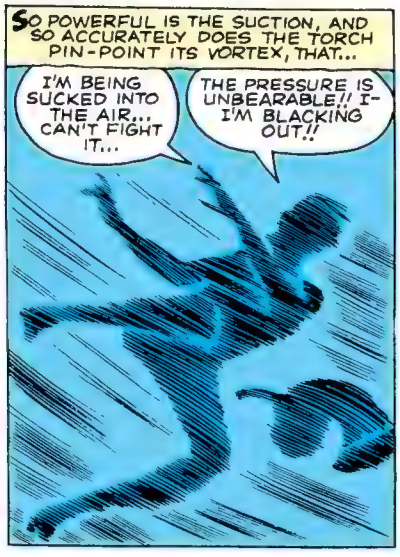

NOW I'LL HAVE THE GIRL, AND MY REVENGE!! THE NEXT TIME I BLOW THIS HORN, I SHALL UNLEASH A HORDE OF UNDERSEA MONSTERS SUCH AS MANKIND NEVER DREAMT OF!!
"HELPLESS BEFORE THE INVINCIBLE ATTACK, YOU HUMANS WILL BE DRIVEN OUT OF YOUR CITIES... UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE CAVES IN WHICH YOUR ANCESTORS DWELLED! THIS IS MY PROPHECY!"
HE MEANS IT!! HE-- HE MIGHT DO IT! WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE!
NO, PRINCE NAMOR, YOU MUSTN'T!! I-I'LL DO ANYTHING--I'LL BECOME YOUR BRIDE!
ONE LIFE SUCH AS MINE DOESN'T MATTER--BUT HUMANITY MUST BE SPARED!
YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH YOU ARE SACRIFICING YOURSELF!
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT AN HONOR I OFFER YOU!? YOU CAN BECOME PRINCESS NAMORA, BRIDE OF THE SUB-MARINER!! CO-RULER OF EARTH!
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!
SOMEBODY'S GOTTA SHOW NAMOR THAT HE CAN'T DEFEAT MANKIND SINGLE-HANDED!
LET ME TACKLE 'IM! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT BIG-TALKIN' FISHMAN!
BUT, HAVING REAINED HIS FULL STRENGTH AGAIN, THE UNDERSEA MONARCH SCATTERS HIS ASTONISHED ATTACKERS LIKE TENPINS!
BACK, YOU CLODS! NONE MAY STRIKE THE IMPERIAL PERSON OF NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER!
22

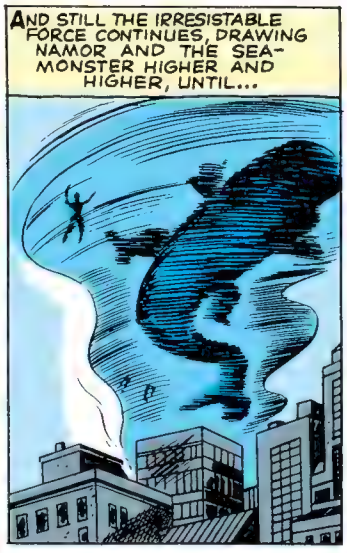
WHO IS THE HULK??

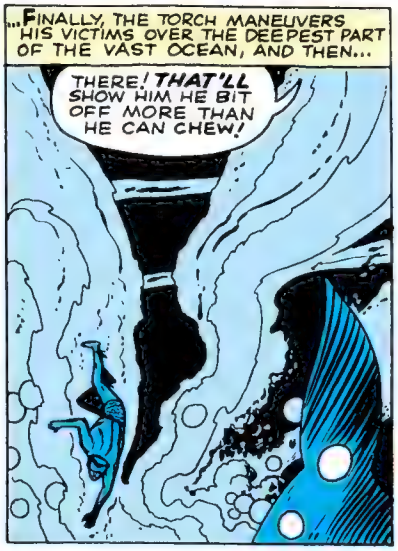

HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN WE THOUGHT! YOU TWO STAY BACK WHILE I--
NOT THIS TIME, REED! THIS CALLS FOR A STUNT THAT ONLY THE HUMAN TORCH CAN PULL!!
FLAME ON!


I'VE GOT TO GET HIGH ABOVE SUB-MARINER BEFORE HE SUSPECTS WHAT I'M GONNA DO!

REACHING A HEIGHT OF ONE THOUSAND FEET, THE AMAZING HUMAN TORCH SUDDENLY FLIES IN AN EVER-EXPANDING CIRCLE, DIRECTLY ABOVE THE SUB-MARINER, CREATING AN AWESOME MAN-MADE TORNADO, OF UN-IMAGINABLE FORCE!


SO POWERFUL IS THE SUCTION, AND SO ACCURATELY DOES THE TORCH PIN-POINT ITS VORTEX, THAT...
I'M BEING SUCKED INTO THE AIR... CAN'T FIGHT IT...
THE PRESSURE IS UNBEARABLE!! I-I'M BLACKING OUT!!


AND STILL THE IRRESISTABLE FORCE CONTINUES, DRAWING NAMOR AND THE SEA-MONSTER HIGHER AND HIGHER, UNTIL...


...FINALLY, THE TORCH MANEUVERS HIS VICTIMS OVER THE DEEPEST PART OF THE VAST OCEAN, AND THEN...
THERE! THAT'LL SHOW HIM HE BIT OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW!

DURING THE SWIRLING, DIZZY DESCENT, THE MENACING SEA-TRUMPET SLIPS FROM NAMOR'S LIMP FINGERS, TO BE LOST IN THE DEPTHS OF THE MURKY SEA... FOREVER!!
23

AND, MOMENTS LATER, REVIVED BY THE OCEAN'S MAGIC HEALING POWERS, THE SUB-MARINER MAKES A VENGEFUL VOW!
I'M NOT BEATEN YET! THEY'RE STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT, BUT NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FINISH NAMOR!
I'LL BE BACK, DO YOU HEAR? I'LL BE BACK!

YES, PERHAPS HE WILL BE BACK! BUT, WHEN SUB-MARINER RETURNS, HE WILL STILL HAVE TO FACE THE MOST INCREDIBLE QUARTET OF HUMANS IN ALL THE WORLD!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM RETURN TO THE SEA, TORCH! I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'LL BE BACK!
IF HE DARES RETURN, HE'LL FIND US WAITING! I SWEAR IT!
the END

THE HULK IS COMING!

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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
12¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
THE Fantastic Four
5 JULY
"MEET... DOCTOR DOOM!"
WITH A TURN OF THIS DIAL, I SHALL DESTROY THE FOUR OF YOU, FOREVER!!
AIR
I'VE GOT TO REACH HIM! HE'S DRAINING THE AIR OUT OF THE ROOM! I CAN'T BREATHE! MY--MY STRENGTH IS EBBING!
AIR!! I GOTTA HAVE AIR!
MY FLAME IS DYING WITHOUT OXYGEN! I'M HELPLESS!
I MUST GET IN TO SAVE THEM! BUT HOW? HOW??
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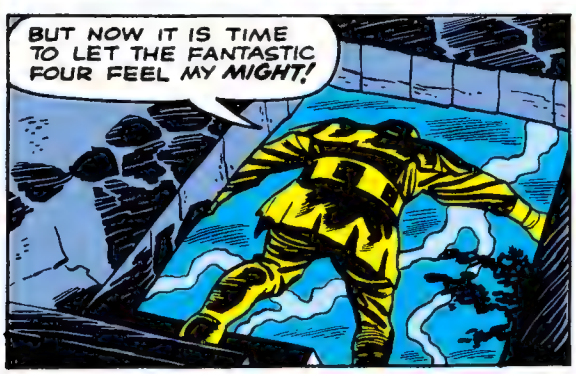
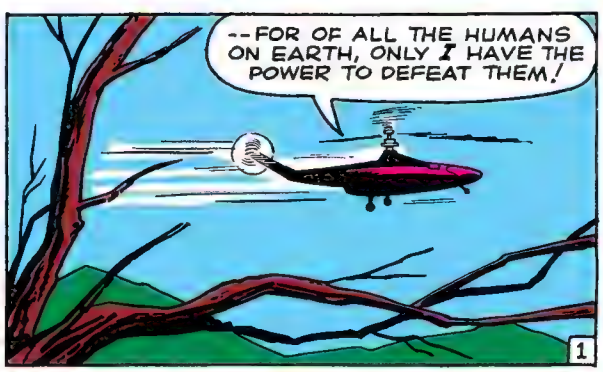
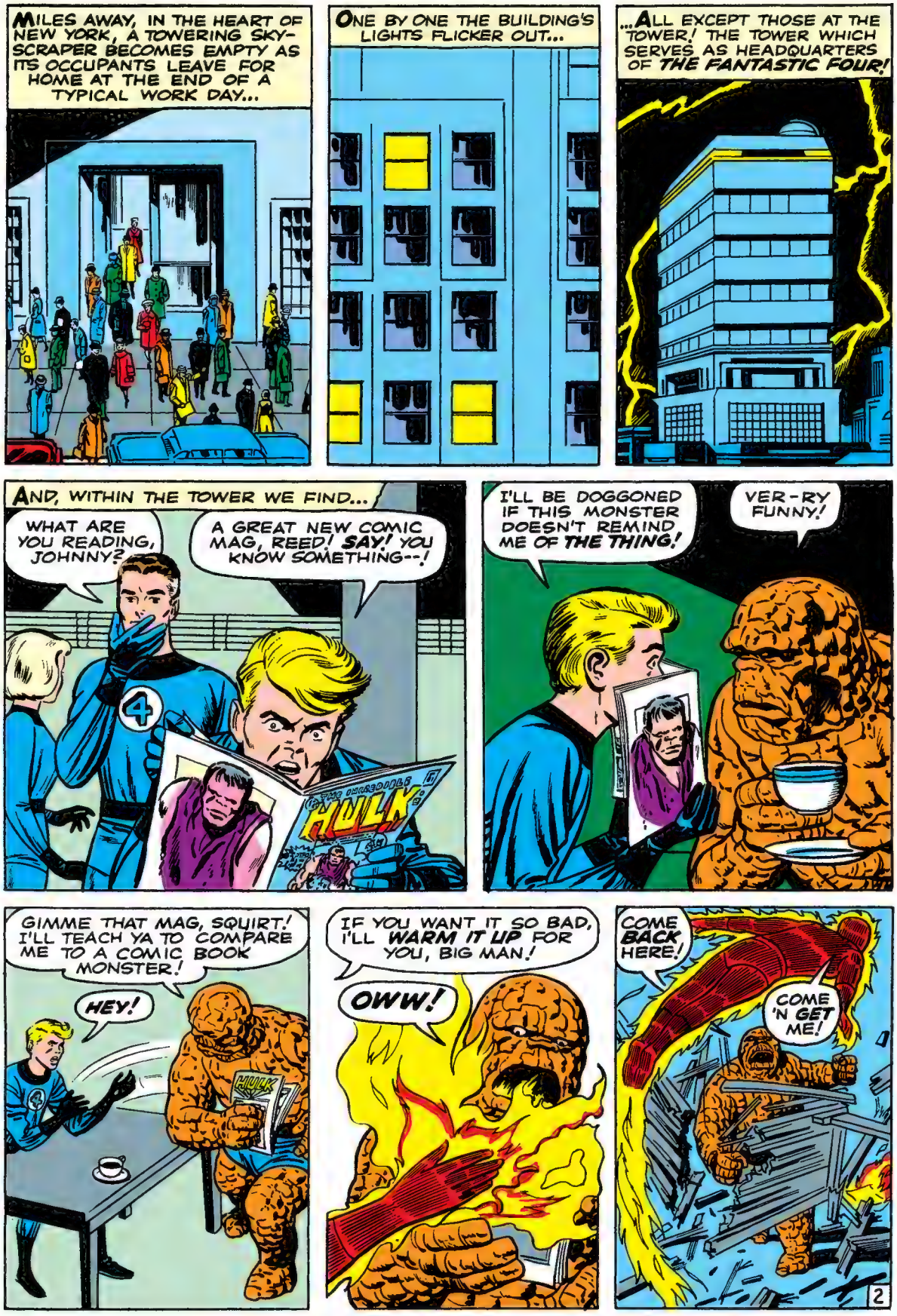
THE FANTASTIC FOUR, IN... "PRISONERS OF DOCTOR DOOM!"

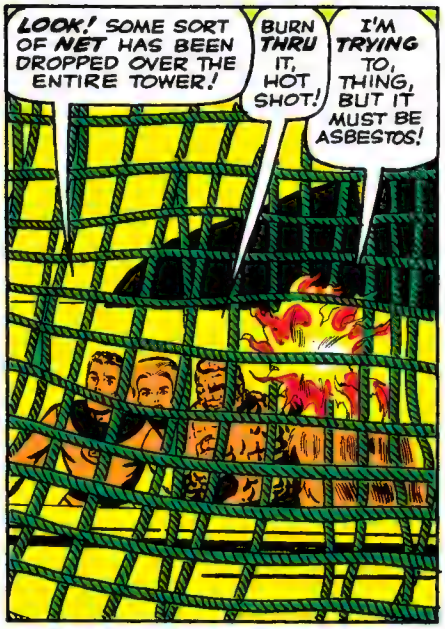
THE FANTASTIC FOUR!! HAH! LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THEY ARE NAUGHT BUT PAWNS IN THE HANDS OF DOCTOR DOOM!
PART 1
Stan Lee
J. KIRBY
DEMONS
SCIENCE AND SORCERY
V-735

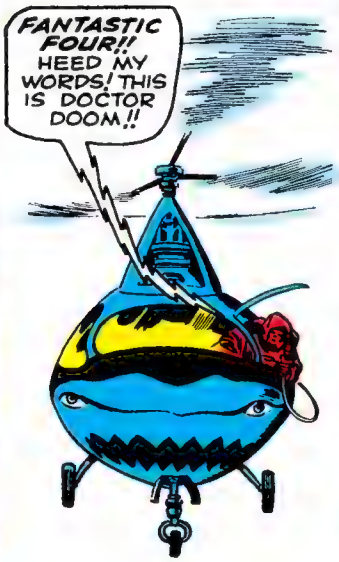





MILES AWAY, IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK, A TOWERING SKY-SCRAPER BECOMES EMPTY AS ITS OCCUPANTS LEAVE FOR HOME AT THE END OF A TYPICAL WORK DAY...
ONE BY ONE THE BUILDING'S LIGHTS FLICKER OUT...
...ALL EXCEPT THOSE AT THE TOWER! THE TOWER WHICH SERVES AS HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
AND, WITHIN THE TOWER WE FIND...
WHAT ARE YOU READING, JOHNNY?
A GREAT NEW COMIC MAG, REED! SAY! YOU KNOW SOMETHING--!
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
I'LL BE DOGGONED IF THIS MONSTER DOESN'T REMIND ME OF THE THING!
VER-RY FUNNY!
GIMME THAT MAG, SQUIRT! I'LL TEACH YA TO COMPARE ME TO A COMIC BOOK MONSTER!
HEY!
IF YOU WANT IT SO BAD, I'LL WARM IT UP FOR YOU, BIG MAN!
OWW!
COME BACK HERE!
COME 'N GET ME!
2

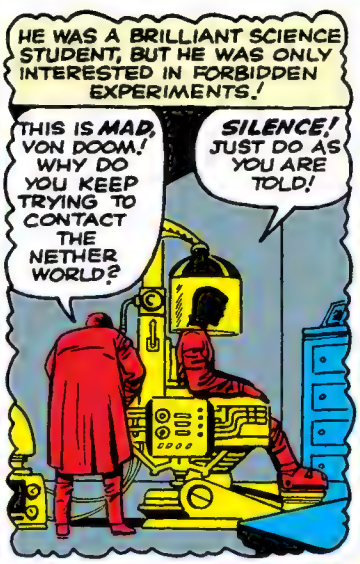
YOU'RE DURNED RIGHT I'LL GET YOU, TORCH! AND WHEN I DO--
STOP HIM, REED!
THING! KNOCK IT OFF!!
THIS WILL COOL YOU OFF, KID BROTHER!
AW, SUE! I WAS JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN!
FUN? YOU TWO WON'T BE SATISFIED TILL YOU'VE PULVERIZED EACH OTHER!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE FOUR OF US? WHENEVER WE'RE NOT FIGHTING SOME MENACE TO MANKIND, WE END UP FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES!
SKIP THE LECTURE, PAL! I'M A BIG BOY NOW!
REED! WHAT HAPPENED?? THE LIGHTS ALL WENT OUT!
IMPOSSIBLE! WE HAVE OUR OWN GENERATOR HERE!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY SOME MORE POWERFUL FORCE! BUT-- WHAT?
FOR THE ANSWER, LET US LOOK UP AT THE SKY, OUTSIDE THE TOWER!
SOON I WILL HAVE THEM TRAPPED AND COMPLETELY AT MY MERCY!
NOTHING CAN ESCAPE MY LITTLE WEB!
NOT EVEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR!


LOOK! SOME SORT OF NET HAS BEEN DROPPED OVER THE ENTIRE TOWER!
BURN THRU IT, HOT SHOT!
I'M TRYING TO, THING, BUT IT MUST BE ASBESTOS!

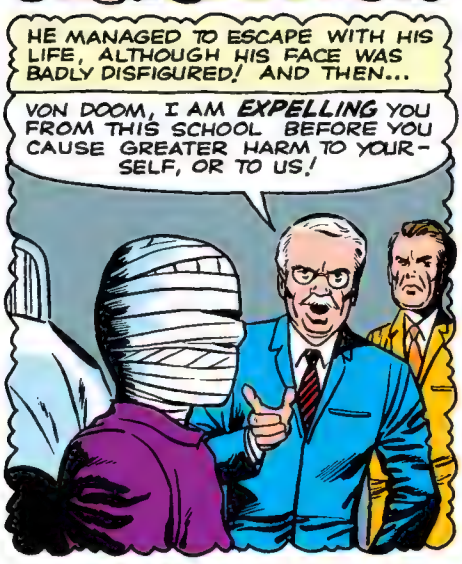

FANTASTIC FOUR!! HEED MY WORDS! THIS IS DOCTOR DOOM!!

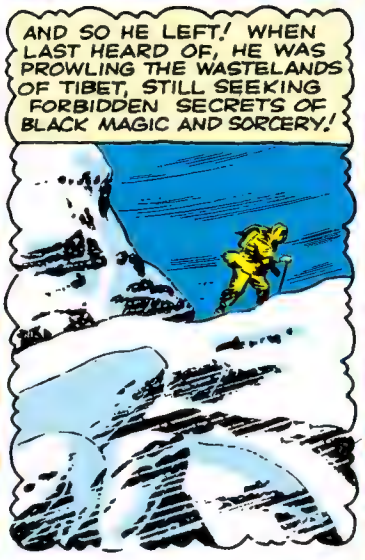
DOCTOR DOOM!? WHO--? WHAT IS HE?
THAT VOICE! I RECOGNIZE IT! BUT-- I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!

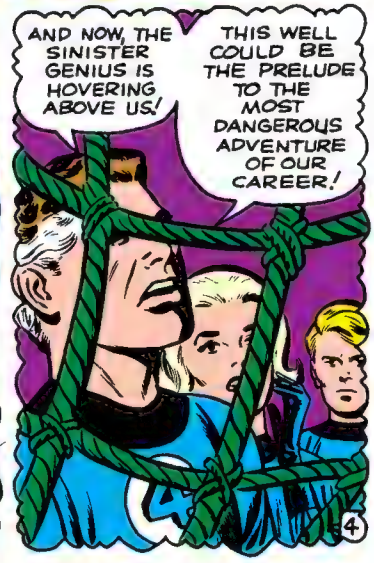
YEARS AGO, IN MY COLLEGE DAYS, THERE WAS A STUDENT NAMED VICTOR VON DOOM, WHO WAS FASCINATED BY SORCERY AND BLACK MAGIC!
I, VON DOOM, HAVE MASTERED THE MYSTIC RITES!


HE WAS A BRILLIANT SCIENCE STUDENT, BUT HE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENTS!
THIS IS MAD, VON DOOM! WHY DO YOU KEEP TRYING TO CONTACT THE NETHER WORLD?
SILENCE! JUST DO AS YOU ARE TOLD!

ONE NIGHT, THE EVIL GENIUS WENT TOO FAR, AS HE BROUGHT FORTH POWERS WHICH EVEN HE COULD NOT CONTROL!
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT CAME FROM VON DOOM'S DORMATORY!

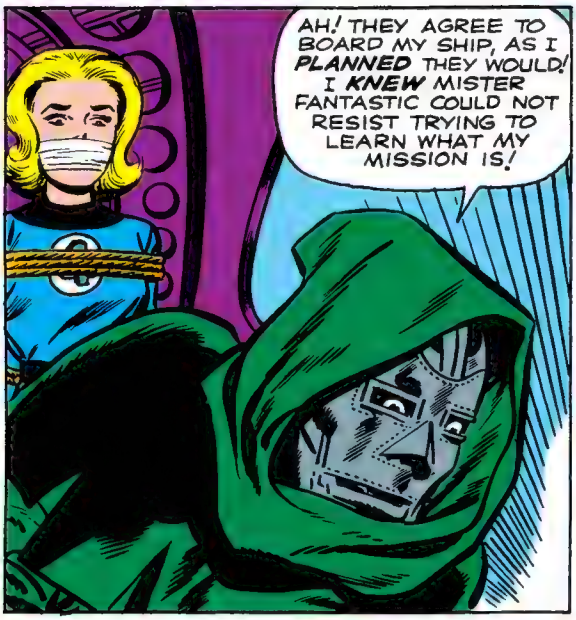

HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH HIS LIFE, ALTHOUGH HIS FACE WAS BADLY DISFIGURED! AND THEN...
VON DOOM, I AM EXPELLING YOU FROM THIS SCHOOL BEFORE YOU CAUSE GREATER HARM TO YOURSELF, OR TO US!

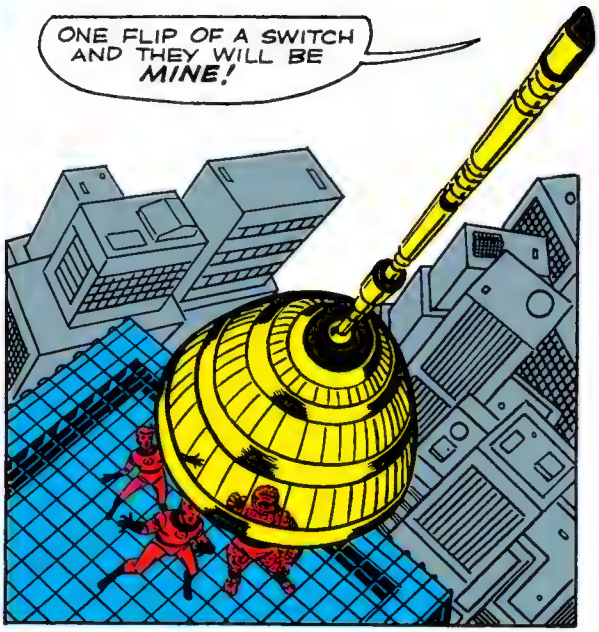

AND SO HE LEFT! WHEN LAST HEARD OF, HE WAS PROWLING THE WASTELANDS OF TIBET, STILL SEEKING FORBIDDEN SECRETS OF BLACK MAGIC AND SORCERY!

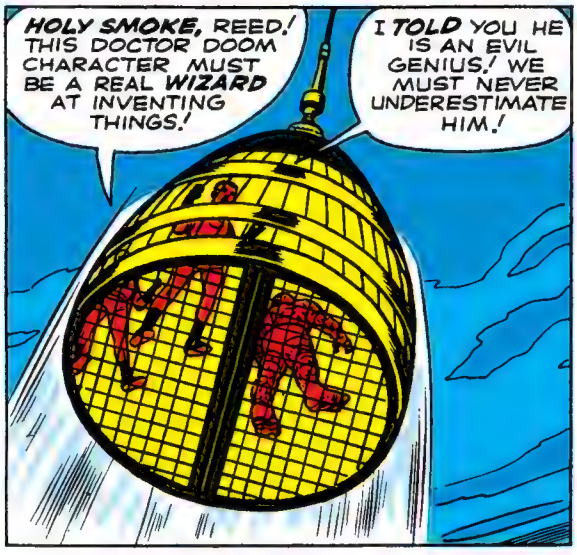

AND NOW, THE SINISTER GENIUS IS HOVERING ABOVE US!
THIS WELL COULD BE THE PRELUDE TO THE MOST DANGEROUS ADVENTURE OF OUR CAREER!

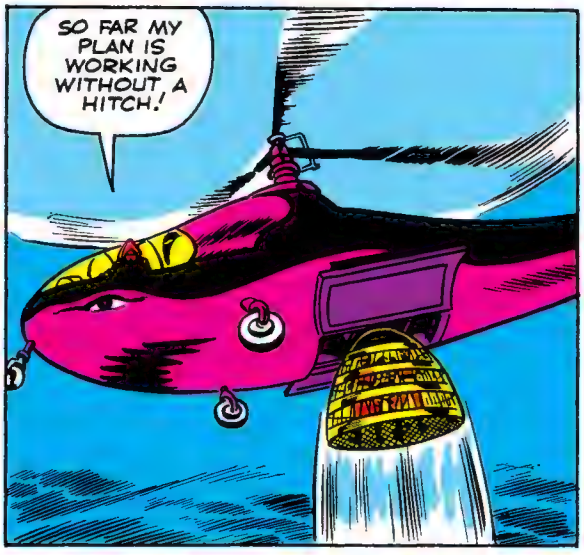
YOU ARE MY PRISONERS, ALL OF YOU! IF YOU WISH ME TO SPARE YOUR LIVES, DO EXACTLY AS I COMMAND!
FIRST, SEND SUSAN STORM OUT TO ME! I SHALL HOLD HER AS A HOSTAGE TO INSURE THAT YOU DO WHAT I DEMAND OF YOU! NOW WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?
I'LL GIVE HIM HIS ANSWER! FIRST, I'LL SNAP THIS PUNY NET JUST THE WAY I'LL SNAP HIS RIBS WHEN I GET A HOLD OF HIM! AND THEN...
YEOWW!
LET GO, THING! IT'S ELECTRICALLY CHARGED!
LISTEN, DOOM, OR GOON, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF! YOU AIN'T GETTIN' SUE IN THAT CORNY-LOOKIN PLANE OF YOURS NO MATTER WHAT! IF YOU WANT US, YOU COME HERE AND TRY 'N GET US!
EASY, THING! DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER! IT'S STILL HIS MOVE!
I-I'VE GOT TO GO OUT TO HIM! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO BRING HIM OUT INTO THE OPEN! IF HE'S AS DANGEROUS AS YOU SAY, WE CAN'T JUST SCARE HIM OFF! WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT HIM!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SUE! THERE MAY BE MORE THAN THE FOUR OF US AT STAKE! BUT I SWEAR ...HE WILL NOT HARM YOU -- NOT WHILE WE LIVE!!
IF YOU ARE SENDING HER OUT, SHOOT UP A FLARE, AND I SHALL OPEN A SECTION OF THE NET FOR HER! AH, THE FLARE! GOOD! GOOD!
DOCTOR DOOM MUST HAVE VAST POWERS TO DARE CHALLENGE THE FANTASTIC FOUR!! AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT THOSE POWERS ARE!
I AM READY, DOCTOR DOOM! I WILL BE YOUR HOSTAGE!
BUT YOU SHALL LIVE TO REGRET DEFYING THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
5

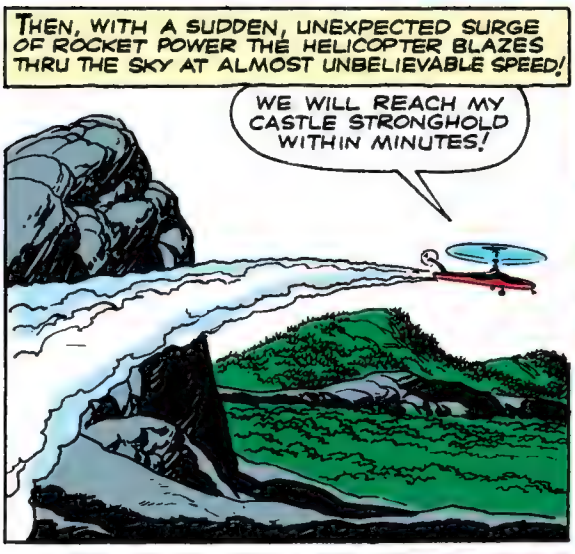
PART 2
STAN LEE & J. KIRBY
"BACK TO THE PAST!"
HE'S TAKING SUE ABOARD HIS SHIP!
LISTEN! HE'S SPEAKING TO US AGAIN!
NOW THAT THE INVISIBLE GIRL IS MY HOSTAGE, I SHALL GIVE YOU YOUR ORDERS! FIRST, I WANT YOU ALL TO BOARD MY PLANE, AND YOU MUST SWEAR YOU WILL NOT ATTACK ME!
V-735
IF YOU AGREE, FIRE YOUR FLARE GUN AGAIN!
GIMME THAT GUN! WE'RE GOIN' ON HIS PLANE! WE'RE NOT LETTIN' HIM GET AWAY FROM US!
REED, WHAT IF DOCTOR DOOM TRIES TO KILL US WHEN WE BOARD HIS PLANE?
EASY, JOHNNY! HE WANTS MORE THAN OUR DEATH! THIS IS PART OF SOME STRANGE MASTER PLAN, AND WE MUST SEE IT THRU!
6

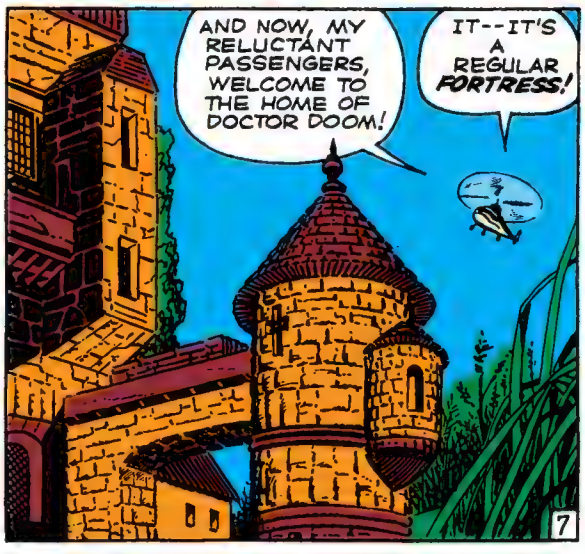

AH! THEY AGREE TO BOARD MY SHIP, AS I PLANNED THEY WOULD! I KNEW MISTER FANTASTIC COULD NOT RESIST TRYING TO LEARN WHAT MY MISSION IS!

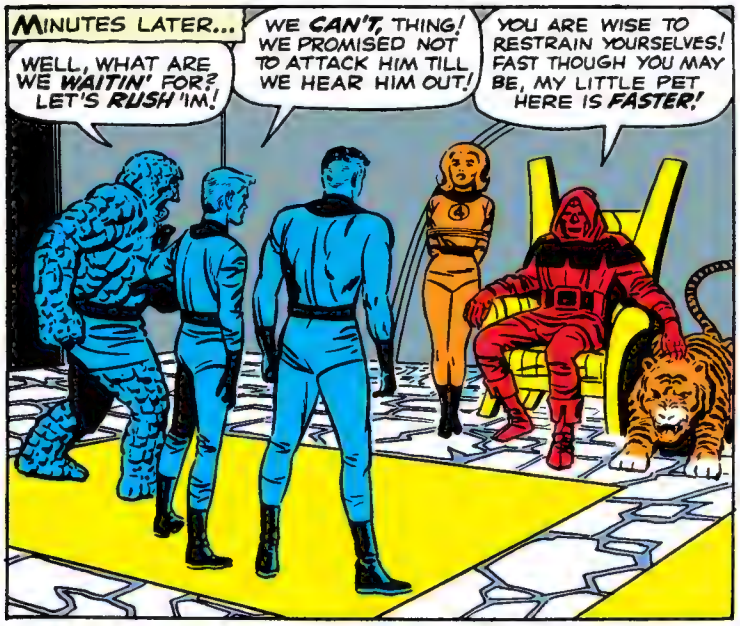

ONE FLIP OF A SWITCH AND THEY WILL BE MINE!

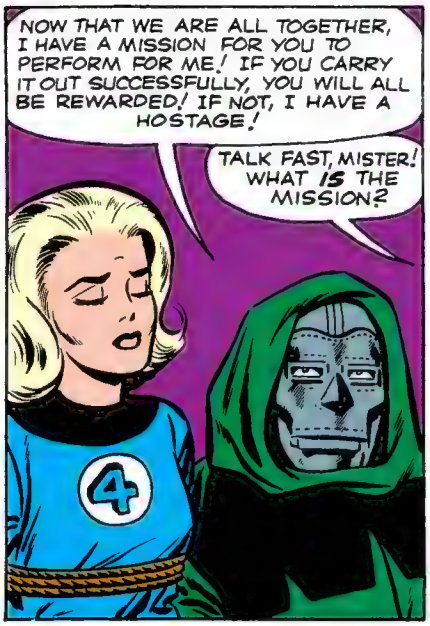

HOLY SMOKE, REED! THIS DOCTOR DOOM CHARACTER MUST BE A REAL WIZARD AT INVENTING THINGS!
I TOLD YOU HE IS AN EVIL GENIUS! WE MUST NEVER UNDERESTIMATE HIM!


SO FAR MY PLAN IS WORKING WITHOUT A HITCH!


THEN, WITH A SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED SURGE OF ROCKET POWER THE HELICOPTER BLAZES THRU THE SKY AT ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE SPEED!
WE WILL REACH MY CASTLE STRONGHOLD WITHIN MINUTES!


AND NOW, MY RELUCTANT PASSENGERS, WELCOME TO THE HOME OF DOCTOR DOOM!
IT--IT'S A REGULAR FORTRESS!


MINUTES LATER...
WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR? LET'S RUSH 'IM!
WE CAN'T, THING! WE PROMISED NOT TO ATTACK HIM TILL WE HEAR HIM OUT!
YOU ARE WISE TO RESTRAIN YOURSELVES! FAST THOUGH YOU MAY BE, MY LITTLE PET HERE IS FASTER!


NOW THAT WE ARE ALL TOGETHER, I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU TO PERFORM FOR ME! IF YOU CARRY IT OUT SUCCESSFULLY, YOU WILL ALL BE REWARDED! IF NOT, I HAVE A HOSTAGE!
TALK FAST, MISTER! WHAT IS THE MISSION?

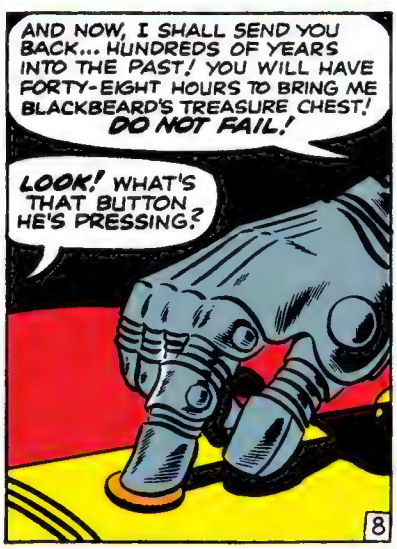
I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED THE MOST INCREDIBLE INVENTION OF THE AGE... AN ACTUAL TIME TRAVEL DEVICE! AND I WANT YOU TO GO CENTURIES INTO THE PAST AND OBTAIN THE LEGENDARY TREASURE OF BLACKBEARD FOR ME!

HE--HE MEANS IT!!
WHY DON'T YOU GO GET THAT TREASURE YOURSELF?
I CANNOT! I MUST REMAIN HERE TO OPERATE THE MACHINE!

WELL, SHALL WE DO IT?
GOSH! A CHANCE TO ACTUALLY VISIT THE PAST! WHO COULD REFUSE?
I COULD! WHAT IF HE DOESN'T BRING US BACK?

I WANT THAT TREASURE! I SHALL BRING YOU BACK!
DESPITE HIS OTHER FAULTS, DOOM IS NOT A LIAR! HE WILL KEEP HIS WORD!
HE'D BETTER!

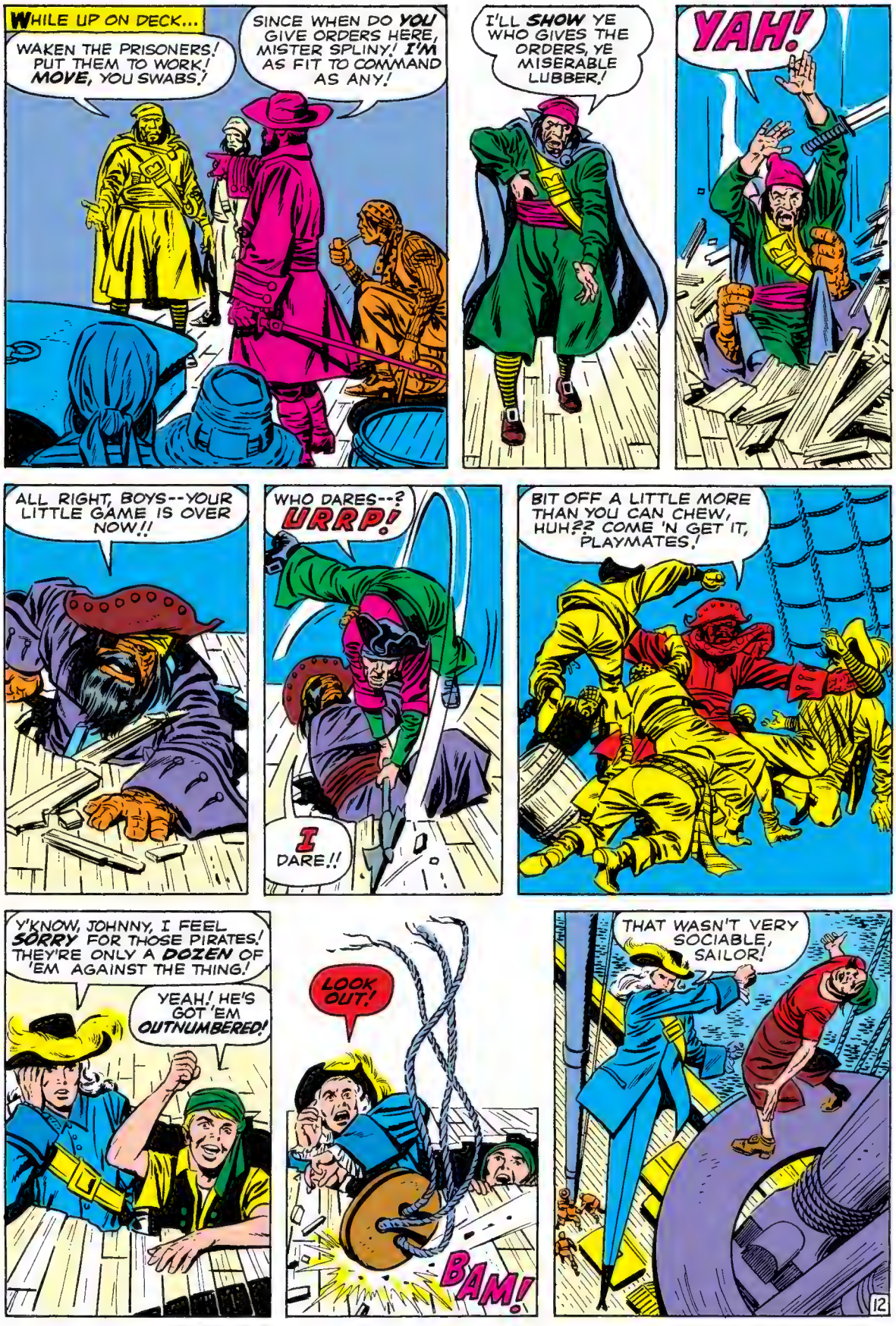
DOOM, IF WE DON'T RETURN... SWEAR YOU WILL SET SUE FREE!
DONE! I ONLY NEEDED HER TO LURE YOU HERE!


AND NOW, I SHALL SEND YOU BACK... HUNDREDS OF YEARS INTO THE PAST! YOU WILL HAVE FORTY-EIGHT HOURS TO BRING ME BLACKBEARD'S TREASURE CHEST! DO NOT FAIL!
LOOK! WHAT'S THAT BUTTON HE'S PRESSING?

IT'S THE TIME TRAVEL MACHINE!
WE WERE STANDING ON IT ALL THE TIME!
REED! JOHNNY! THING! BE CAREFUL!! PLEASE... BE CAREFUL!!
THEY'RE GONE!
YES! GONE TO BRING ME THE GEMS WHICH, UNKNOWN TO THEM, WILL MAKE DOCTOR DOOM RULER OF EARTH!
-GASP- IT WORKED!! LOOK! LOOK WHERE WE ARE!
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST! WE'VE ONLY GOT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS!
THE FIRST THING WE NEED ARE SOME CLOTHES! WE'RE MUCH TOO CONSPICUOUS IN OUR COSTUMES!
I STOLE THESE CLOTHES, YE SWAB! THEY'RE MINE!
YE MISERABLE SEA DOG! YE SWORE TO DIVIDE THE BOOTY WITH ME!
I SAY THEY'RE MINE! WANNA MAKE SOMETHIN' OUT OF IT??
FLEE!! 'TIS A DEMON!
PERFECT! A WHOLE BUNDLE OF SUITS AND BOOTS!

THIS IS KEEN! I FEEL LIKE ERROL FLYNN!
LET ME DISGUISE YOU TOO, THING! A FAKE BEARD, HAT, AND EYE PATCH SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
TAKE IT EASY, BUB! I DON'T WANNA SUFFOCATE IN THIS OUTFIT!
ALMOST FINISHED!
THERE! YOU LOOK REAL NATURAL!
SAY! THIS FEELS PRETTY GOOD!
AHOY, MATEY! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN DATE ONE OF THESE PRETTY BARMAIDS! HEH HEH!
KNOCK IT OFF, THING! WE'VE STILL GOT TO FIND BLACKBEARD AND FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET HIS TREASURE!
METHINKS THOSE THREE STRANGERS WOULD LIKE TO JOIN MY CREW, WENCH!
FEED THEM SOME GROG TO PUT THEM TO SLEEP! BE QUICK AT IT, LASS!
REFRESH YOURSELF, MASTER!
SAY! THE SERVICE HERE IS PRETTY GOOD!
MOMENTS LATER...
GOSH, I'M-- SLEEPY! HOW ABOUT YOU, THING? AND-- REED-- ÷YAWN÷
IT IS DONE! NOW TO CARRY THEM TO OUR SHIP, AND SET SAIL! WHEN THEY AWAKE, THEY WILL BE PART OF OUR PIRATE CREW!
10

PART 3
"ON THE TRAIL OF BLACKBEARD"
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
V-735
HOURS LATER, THE THING IS FIRST TO AWAKEN...
...SLOWLY, SILENTLY, HE LOOKS ABOUT HIM...
...ONLY TO FIND THAT THEY ARE LOCKED IN THE MUSTY HOLD OF A PIRATE SHIP!
11


WHILE UP ON DECK...
WAKEN THE PRISONERS! PUT THEM TO WORK! MOVE, YOU SWABS!
SINCE WHEN DO YOU GIVE ORDERS HERE, MISTER SPLINY! I'M AS FIT TO COMMAND AS ANY!
I'LL SHOW YE WHO GIVES THE ORDERS, YE MISERABLE LUBBER!
YAH!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS--YOUR LITTLE GAME IS OVER NOW!!
WHO DARES--? URRP!
I DARE!!
BIT OFF A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW, HUH?? COME 'N GET IT, PLAYMATES!
Y'KNOW, JOHNNY, I FEEL SORRY FOR THOSE PIRATES! THEY'RE ONLY A DOZEN OF 'EM AGAINST THE THING!
YEAH! HE'S GOT 'EM OUTNUMBERED!
LOOK OUT!
BAM!
THAT WASN'T VERY SOCIABLE, SAILOR!
12

MUTINEERS, BE YE? I'LL GIVE YE A TASTE OF ME BLADE!
WANNA BET?
?
FLAME ON!
IT IS SORCERY! YE BE ENCHANTED!
THAT'S AS GOOD A NAME FOR IT AS ANY, MISTER!
BACK! STAY BACK! IT IS DEATH TO DEFY THE MIRACULOUS ONES!
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!!
SUDDENLY...
WE ARE ATTACKED!
BOOM!
IT'S ANOTHER PIRATE SHIP! MEBBE IT'S BLACKBEARD!
SHE'S LOADED WITH TREASURE! IT COULD BE BLACK-BEARD!
THING! TORCH! GET READY FOR THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES!
ALL RIGHT, YOU SWABS! THAT MEANS YOU, TOO! WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER! GET ME??
AYE AYE, MIGHTY ONE!
13

STEP ASIDE, GENTS! I'LL SOFTEN 'EM UP A BIT FIRST!
THE YOUTH IS MAD!
FLAME ON!
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
BATTLE!
PART 4
AVAST!! WE ARE ATTACKED BY A FLAMING DEMON!
V-735
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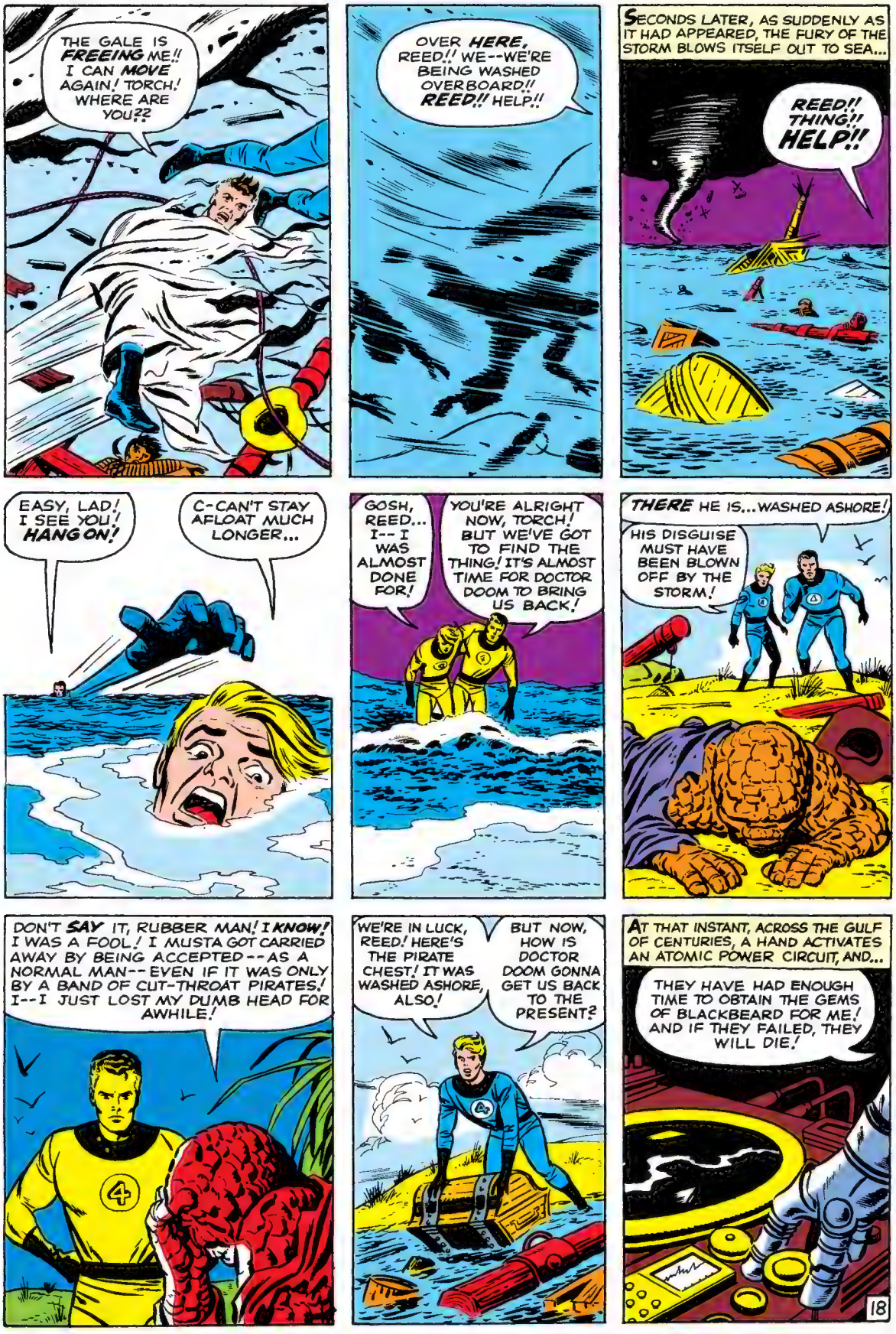
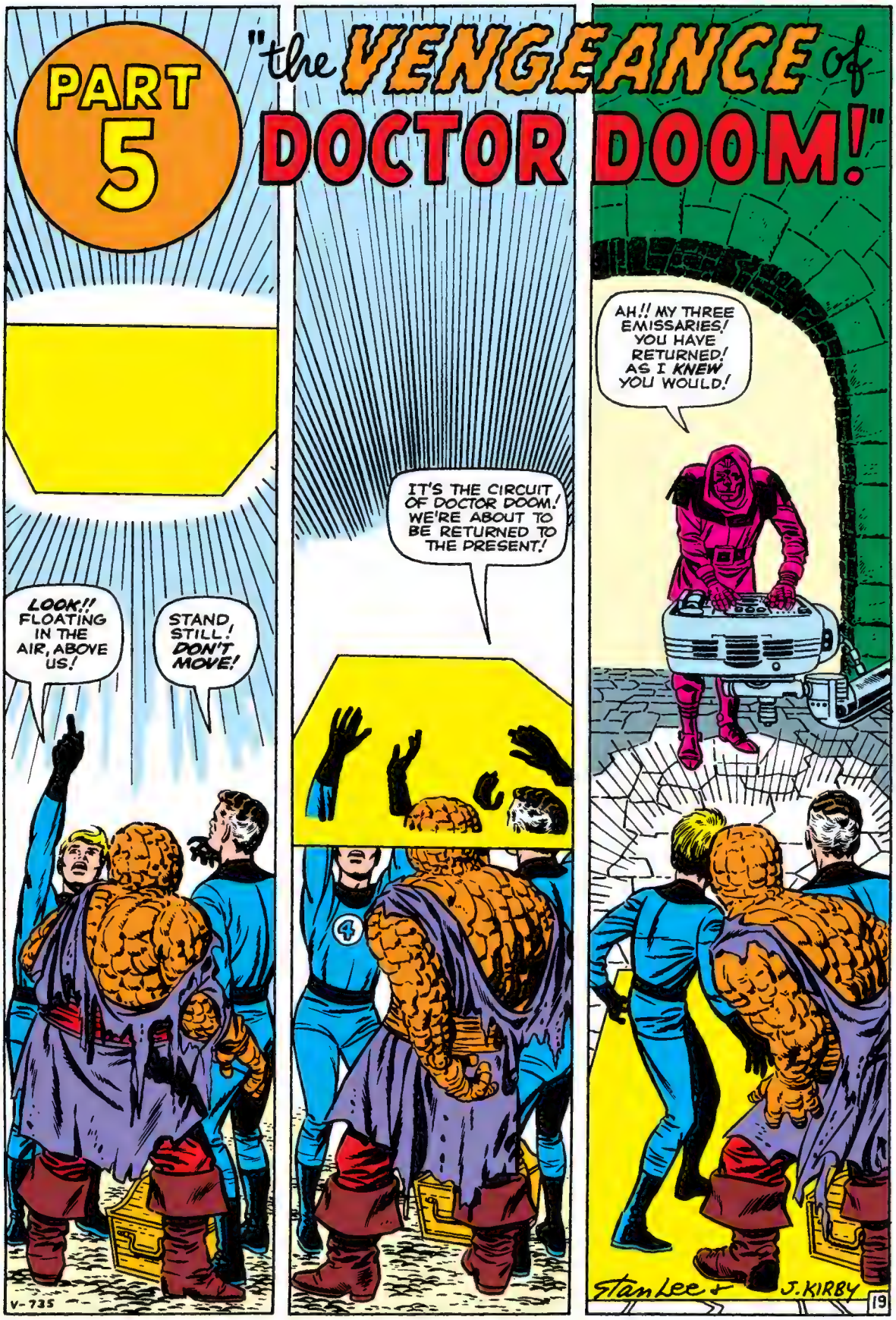
THAT WAS ONLY A SAMPLE!
NOW I'LL REALLY TURN ON SOME STEAM!
BY HITTING THE WATER WITH MY BLAZING BODY, I CAN SET UP A CLOUD OF STEAM WHICH WILL CONCEAL OUR NEXT MOVE!
OKAY, THING! THE TORCH STARTED HIS STEAMING SMOKE SCREEN! THAT'S OUR CUE! LET'S GO!!
HOW DO WE GET OVER THERE, BIG BRAIN?!
LIKE THIS!!
WELL, SHAKE A LEG, FELLA! I CAN'T STAY THIS WAY ALL DAY!
HE CAN STAY THAT WAY FOREVER FOR ALL I CARE!
WELL, IF WE'RE GONNA HAVE US A LITTLE SWINGIN' SESSION, I'LL GRAB SOMETHING TO SWING WITH!
JUST YOU STAY THERE NICE AND COMFY, RUBBER MAN, WHILE WE MUSS UP THE BIG BAD PIRATES FOR YA!
HURRY UP, THING! MY BACK FEELS LIKE IT'S BREAKING!

YAHOO! GO GET 'EM, BOYS!
FOLLOW THE BLACK-BEARDED ONE! ATTACK!
THEY FIGHT LIKE DEMONS POSSESSED! WE HAVE NO CHANCE!
AND, BRIEF MINUTES LATER...
HOORAY FOR THE MIGHTY BEARDED ONE!
HOORAY FOR BLACKBEARD!
HAIL BLACK-BEARD! SCOURGE OF THE SEVEN SEAS!
BLACKBEARD?? BUT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THE THING!
GOOD LORD!! I SEE IT NOW! THE THING IS BLACKBEARD! HE CAME BACK TO THE PAST TO FIND ...HIMSELF!
THEN THIS TREASURE WHICH WE JUST FOUND IN THE HOLD BELONGS TO US NOW!
OR, ACTUALLY IT BELONGS TO BLACKBEARD... FOR THE MEN HAVE CHOSEN HIM AS THEIR LEADER!
WOW! LOOK AT THIS STUFF!
THIS IS TERRIF! WE COME TO THE PAST TO FIND THE TREASURE OF BLACKBEARD ...AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE OURS!
SORRY, MEN, BUT IT WON'T BE OURS! WE'LL DIVIDE IT AMONG THE MEN! IF DOCTOR DOOM WANTED IT, THERE MUST BE SOME DANGEROUS POWER WHICH IT POSSESSES, AND WE'VE GOT TO SEE THAT HE NEVER GETS IT!
KOPOOM
INSTEAD, WE'LL LOAD THIS CHEST WITH WORTHLESS CHAINS FOR DOCTOR DOOM! FOR, NOW THAT WE FULFILLED OUR PROMISE TO DOOM, WE CAN RETURN TO OUR OWN AGE!
WE KEPT OUR WORD! WE ARE BRINGING HIM BLACKBEARD'S TREASURE CHEST!
FOR WE NEVER PROMISED TO BRING THE TREASURE ITSELF!
16

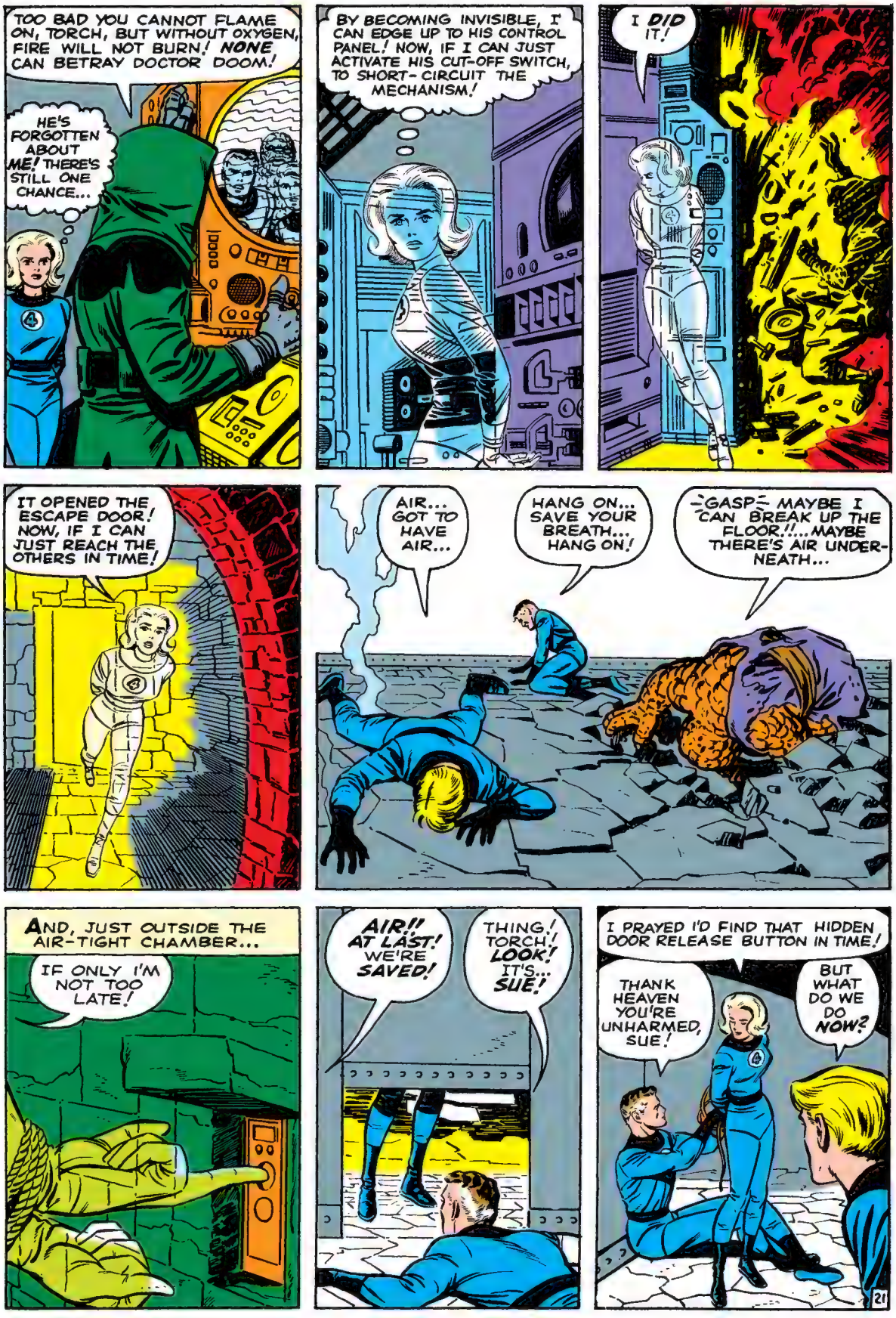
YOU TWO CAN GO BACK IF YOU WANNA! AS FOR ME, I LIKE IT HERE!
REED! HE ACTUALLY ENJOYS BEING BLACKBEARD!
BUT HE CAN'T REMAIN HERE IN THE PAST!
WHY CAN'T I STAY? THE FUTURE HOLDS NOTHING FOR ME! IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY I'M NOTHIN' BUT A MONSTER... A FREAK!
BUT HERE I'M SOMEBODY! I'M A LEADER OF MEN! I'M A CAPTAIN! I'M THE GUY WHO STARTED THE LEGEND OF BLACKBEARD! THE KIDS WILL READ ABOUT ME IN SCHOOL SOME DAY! I AIN'T GIVIN' THIS UP ...NEVER!
AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU TWO DON'T TRY TO TAKE ME BACK! TIE 'EM UP, MEN-- FAST!
DON'T BE SCARED OF THE TORCH! HE'S STILL SOAKIN' WET! HE CAN'T FLAME ON YET!
THAT'S IT! WRAP A SAIL AROUND MR. FANTASTIC! IT WON'T DO HIM ANY GOOD TO STRETCH IF HE'S GOT NO PLACE TO STRETCH OUT OF!
NOW PUT 'EM OVER THE SIDE IN A LIFE BOAT! BY THE TIME THEY GET FREE, WE'LL HAVE LOST OURSELVES IN THE FOG!! THEY'LL NEVER FIND US AGAIN!
THING! DON'T DO IT!! DON'T CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM US! YOU MUSTN'T! YOU'LL REGRET IT SOME DAY!! DON'T DO IT!!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AS THOUGH IN ECHO TO THE TORCH'S WORDS...
AHOY, ALL HANDS!! TWISTER AHEAD!


THE GALE IS FREEING ME!! I CAN MOVE AGAIN! TORCH! WHERE ARE YOU??
OVER HERE, REED!! WE--WE'RE BEING WASHED OVERBOARD!! REED!! HELP!!
SECONDS LATER, AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD APPEARED, THE FURY OF THE STORM BLOWS ITSELF OUT TO SEA...
REED!! THING!! HELP!!
EASY, LAD! I SEE YOU! HANG ON!
C-CAN'T STAY AFLOAT MUCH LONGER...
GOSH, REED... I-- I WAS ALMOST DONE FOR!
YOU'RE ALRIGHT NOW, TORCH! BUT WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE THING! IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR DOCTOR DOOM TO BRING US BACK!
THERE HE IS...WASHED ASHORE!
HIS DISGUISE MUST HAVE BEEN BLOWN OFF BY THE STORM!
DON'T SAY IT, RUBBER MAN! I KNOW! I WAS A FOOL! I MUSTA GOT CARRIED AWAY BY BEING ACCEPTED--AS A NORMAL MAN--EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY BY A BAND OF CUT-THROAT PIRATES! I--I JUST LOST MY DUMB HEAD FOR AWHILE!
WE'RE IN LUCK, REED! HERE'S THE PIRATE CHEST! IT WAS WASHED ASHORE, ALSO!
BUT NOW, HOW IS DOCTOR DOOM GONNA GET US BACK TO THE PRESENT?
AT THAT INSTANT, ACROSS THE GULF OF CENTURIES, A HAND ACTIVATES AN ATOMIC POWER CIRCUIT, AND...
THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO OBTAIN THE GEMS OF BLACKBEARD FOR ME! AND IF THEY FAILED, THEY WILL DIE!

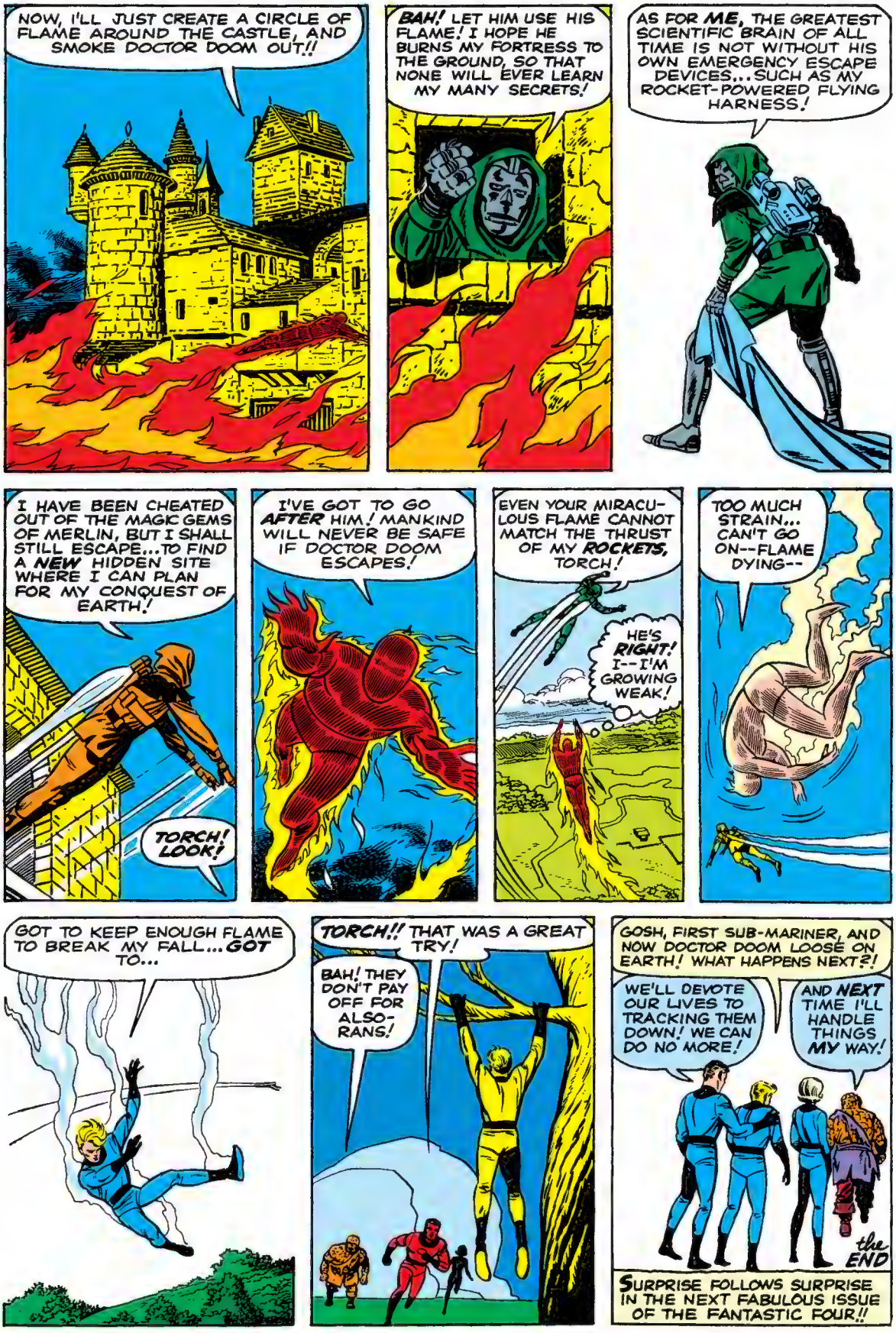

PART 5
"the VENGEANCE of DOCTOR DOOM!"
LOOK!! FLOATING IN THE AIR, ABOVE US!
STAND STILL! DON'T MOVE!
IT'S THE CIRCUIT OF DOCTOR DOOM! WE'RE ABOUT TO BE RETURNED TO THE PRESENT!
AH!! MY THREE EMISSARIES! YOU HAVE RETURNED! AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!
Stan Lee J. KIRBY
V-735
19

WE PROMISED TO BRING YOU BLACKBEARD'S TREASURE CHEST, DOOM! WELL, HERE IT IS!
GOOD! GOOD! THE GEMS IN THAT CHEST WILL HELP ME GAIN MASTERY OF ALL THE WORLD!
THOSE LITTLE BAUBLES ARE MORE THAN WHAT THEY SEEM! THEY WERE ORIGINALLY THE PROPERTY OF MERLIN, THE ANCIENT MAGICIAN! HE GAVE THEM MYSTIC POWER...THE POWER TO MAKE THEIR OWNER INVINCIBLE!
AND NOW, THAT POWER SHALL BE MINE! WITH THESE GEMS IN MY POSSESSION, NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN EVER DEFEAT ME!
REED! THE GEMS WERE SCATTERED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA DURING THE STORM!! WHAT IF SUB-MARINER* SHOULD EVER FIND THEM??!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PRAY THAT HE NEVER DOES, TORCH!
WHA--?? CHAINS!! WORTHLESS CHAINS!! I'VE BEEN TRICKED!
YOU'RE GONNA BE MORE THAN THAT, BROTHER! LET'S GET 'IM, GUYS!
FOOL!! YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT DOCTOR DOOM SO EASILY??!
YEAH!! JUST WATCH ME!
HEY!!?
IT'S NOTHIN' BUT A ROBOT!
NATURALLY! I AM IN A HIDDEN ROOM ABOVE YOU! A ROOM FROM WHICH I SHALL NOW PRESS A BUTTON DRAINING YOUR CHAMBER OF ALL OXYGEN! FAREWELL, FANTASTIC FOUR!
20

*"SUB-MARINER"... SEE FANTASTIC FOUR, ISSUE #4, MAY


TOO BAD YOU CANNOT FLAME ON, TORCH, BUT WITHOUT OXYGEN, FIRE WILL NOT BURN! NONE CAN BETRAY DOCTOR DOOM!
HE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME! THERE'S STILL ONE CHANCE...
BY BECOMING INVISIBLE, I CAN EDGE UP TO HIS CONTROL PANEL! NOW, IF I CAN JUST ACTIVATE HIS CUT-OFF SWITCH, TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE MECHANISM!
I DID IT!
IT OPENED THE ESCAPE DOOR! NOW, IF I CAN JUST REACH THE OTHERS IN TIME!
AIR... GOT TO HAVE AIR...
HANG ON... SAVE YOUR BREATH... HANG ON!
-GASP- MAYBE I CAN BREAK UP THE FLOOR!!... MAYBE THERE'S AIR UNDERNEATH...
AND, JUST OUTSIDE THE AIR-TIGHT CHAMBER...
IF ONLY I'M NOT TOO LATE!
AIR!! AT LAST! WE'RE SAVED!
THING! TORCH! LOOK! IT'S... SUE!
I PRAYED I'D FIND THAT HIDDEN DOOR RELEASE BUTTON IN TIME!
THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE UNHARMED, SUE!
BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
21

DO? I'M GONNA TAKE THIS JOINT APART TILL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT DOOM CREEP!
NO! HOLD IT! HE'S PROBABLY GOT EVERY INCH OF THIS CASTLE BOOBY-TRAPPED
YOU'RE RIGHT, REED! HE MUST HAVE RECOVERED BY NOW AND HE'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING!
WE WILL! BUT WE'LL DO IT MY WAY! WATCH...
ALL I NEED IS SOMETHING STRONG TO HOLD ON TO, AND THEN...
PUSH, THING! PUSH!!
WITH PLEASURE, BUB!
WE'RE FREE! BUT WE'VE STILL GOT TO CROSS THIS MOAT!
SO WE CAN FIGHT HIM ON OUR TERMS, NOT HIS!
HERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY FOR MONTHS...
BY GIVING MY FLAME THE INTENSITY OF ATOMIC HEAT, I CAN ACTUALLY BOIL A SECTION OF THE WATER AWAY AND FUSE THE GROUND, TURNING IT INTO A GLASS-LIKE SUBSTANCE!
HE DID IT!! THE TORCH DID IT!
THIS SURE BEATS SWIMMIN' THRU A MESS OF CROCS ANY DAY!
22


NOW, I'LL JUST CREATE A CIRCLE OF FLAME AROUND THE CASTLE, AND SMOKE DOCTOR DOOM OUT!!
BAH! LET HIM USE HIS FLAME! I HOPE HE BURNS MY FORTRESS TO THE GROUND, SO THAT NONE WILL EVER LEARN MY MANY SECRETS!
AS FOR ME, THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC BRAIN OF ALL TIME IS NOT WITHOUT HIS OWN EMERGENCY ESCAPE DEVICES... SUCH AS MY ROCKET-POWERED FLYING HARNESS!
I HAVE BEEN CHEATED OUT OF THE MAGIC GEMS OF MERLIN, BUT I SHALL STILL ESCAPE...TO FIND A NEW HIDDEN SITE WHERE I CAN PLAN FOR MY CONQUEST OF EARTH!
TORCH! LOOK!
I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER HIM! MANKIND WILL NEVER BE SAFE IF DOCTOR DOOM ESCAPES!
EVEN YOUR MIRACULOUS FLAME CANNOT MATCH THE THRUST OF MY ROCKETS, TORCH!
HE'S RIGHT! I--I'M GROWING WEAK!
TOO MUCH STRAIN... CAN'T GO ON--FLAME DYING--
GOT TO KEEP ENOUGH FLAME TO BREAK MY FALL... GOT TO...
TORCH!! THAT WAS A GREAT TRY!
BAH! THEY DON'T PAY OFF FOR ALSO-RANS!
GOSH, FIRST SUB-MARINER, AND NOW DOCTOR DOOM LOOSE ON EARTH! WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?!
WE'LL DEVOTE OUR LIVES TO TRACKING THEM DOWN! WE CAN DO NO MORE!
AND NEXT TIME I'LL HANDLE THINGS MY WAY!
the END
SURPRISE FOLLOWS SURPRISE IN THE NEXT FABULOUS ISSUE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!

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IND.
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
THE Fantastic Four
MC
6 SEPT.
HAVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AT LAST MET THEIR MATCH WHEN MIGHTY SUB-MARINER AND EVIL DOCTOR DOOM TEAM UP?? DON'T MISS "the DIABOLICAL DUO JOIN FORCES!"
THE TIME HAS COME, SUB-MARINER! DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
NO MATTER WHAT POWERS YOU BOTH HAVE, WE SHALL DEFEAT YOU! THE FANTASTIC FOUR SWEAR IT!

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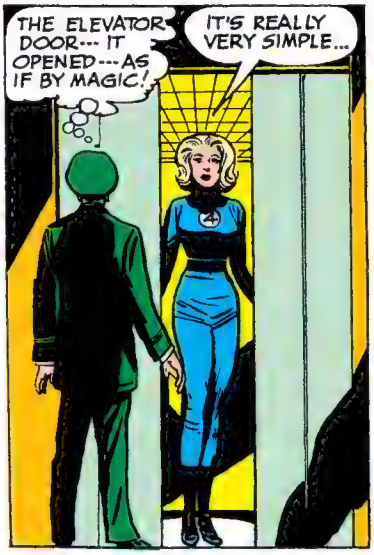
THE FANTASTIC FOUR in
by... Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
"CAPTIVES of the DEADLY DUO!"
IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH! HEADING FOR THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS !!!
PART 1
AYERS
THE TORCH!! A LIVING LEGEND! --AND I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE HIM WITH MY OWN EYES!
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN... NOT FROM THIS DISTANCE! IT MAY JUST BE SOME NATURAL PHENOMENON!
I'VE SEEN THAT "NATURAL PHENOMENON" IN ACTION BEFORE-- AND HIS THREE PARTNERS, TOO!
V-835 1.

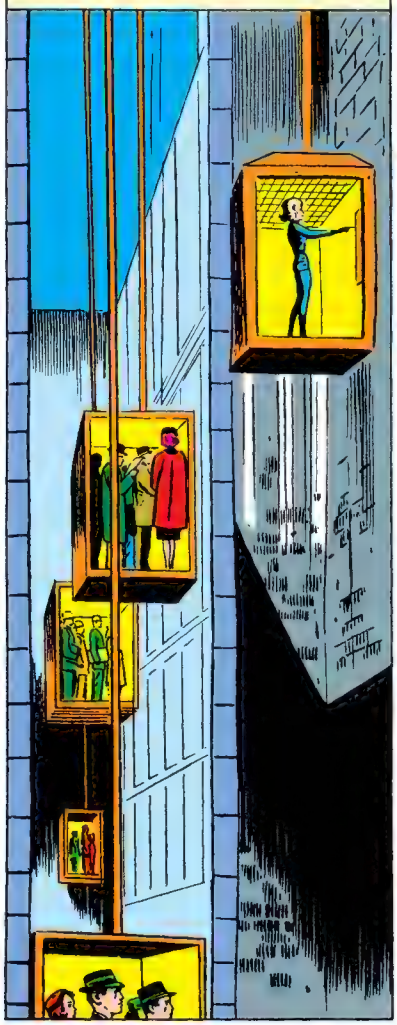
IT'S KINDA HARD TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND! YOU SEE THESE STRANGE THINGS---HEAR ALL THOSE INCREDIBLE STORIES---
IT'S MASS HYSTERIA, PETE! I COULD NO MORE BELIEVE IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR THAN I COULD IN FLYING SAUCERS!
THE HUMAN TORCH... THE THING... MISTER FANTASTIC... THE INVISIBLE GIRL... THEY'RE ALL CREATURES OF THE IMAGI---- HEY! WHA---?
HARRY--- SOMETHING PUSHED US OFF OUR FEET--- SOMETHING THAT BRUSHED BY US... SOMETHING --- WE CAN'T SEE!
PARDON ME, GENTLEMEN... I MUST GET BY...
A VOICE.. ..OUT OF THE THIN AIR!... A GIRL'S VOICE!
LOOK!... MATERIALIZING BEFORE OUR VERY EYES...
---THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
SHE'S ONE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR! IMAGINE HER BEING AMONG US ALL THIS TIME... WITHOUT OUR KNOWING IT!
IT'S ENOUGH TO GIVE ONE THE SHIVERS!
FIRST THE HUMAN TORCH---AND NOW HER! SOMETHING'S UP FOR SURE!
DISTURBED BY THE UNCERTAIN MOOD OF THE CROWD, THE DISTAFF MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR HASTENS TO THE GREAT SKYSCRAPER WHICH HOUSES THEIR HEADQUARTERS!
THE TORCH HAS BEEN SCOUTING FOR SIGNS OF DOCTOR DOOM.!* WONDER IF HE'S BROUGHT BACK ANY NEWS?
BAXTER BUILDING
IN A REMOTE CORNER OF THE BUSTLING LOBBY...
THIS EXPRESS ELEVATOR SEEMS TO BE WORKING-- BUT NOT FOR ME! I'LL NEVER GET TO DELIVER MY TELEGRAM!
ARE YOU DELIVERING ANY MESSAGES TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR, SON?
ER--- NO, MA'AM... (GULP)
4
2

* DOCTOR DOOM: SEE FANTASTIC FOUR, NUMBER 5, JULY.

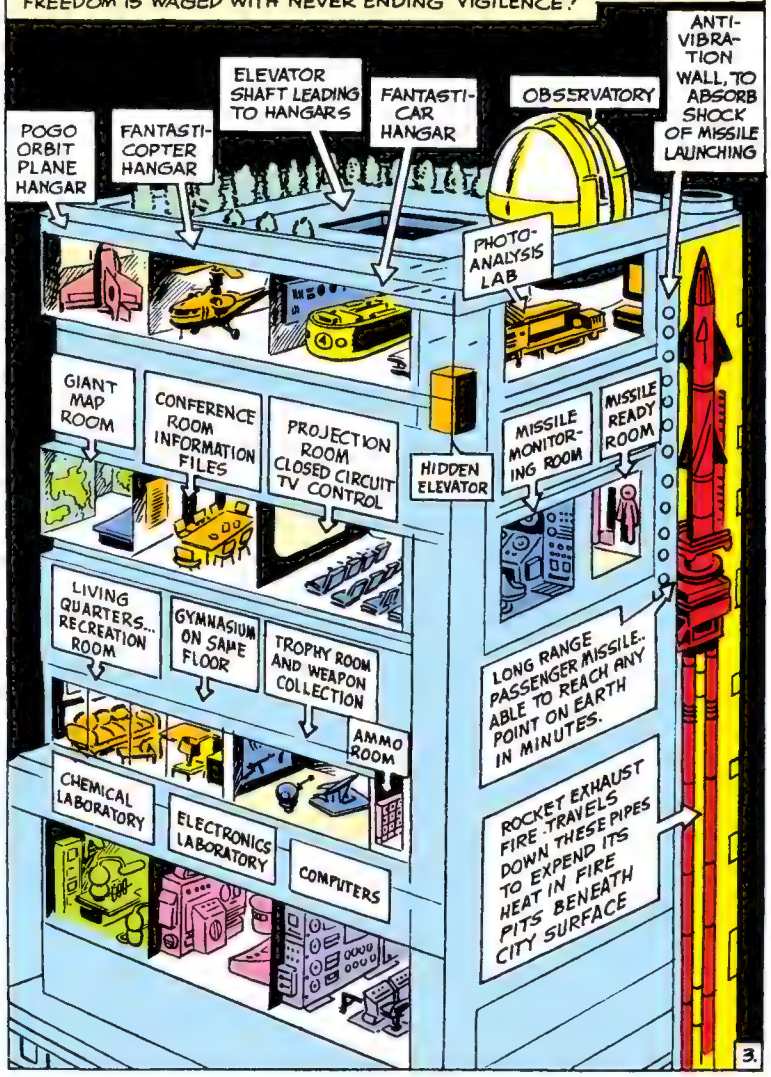
-THEN I WOULDN'T ADVISE WAITING FOR THIS ELEVATOR---UNLESS YOUR BELT HAS A HIDDEN BUCKLE LIKE MINE, WHICH THROWS AN INVISIBLE BEAM ON THE ELECTRIC EYE ON THAT DOOR!



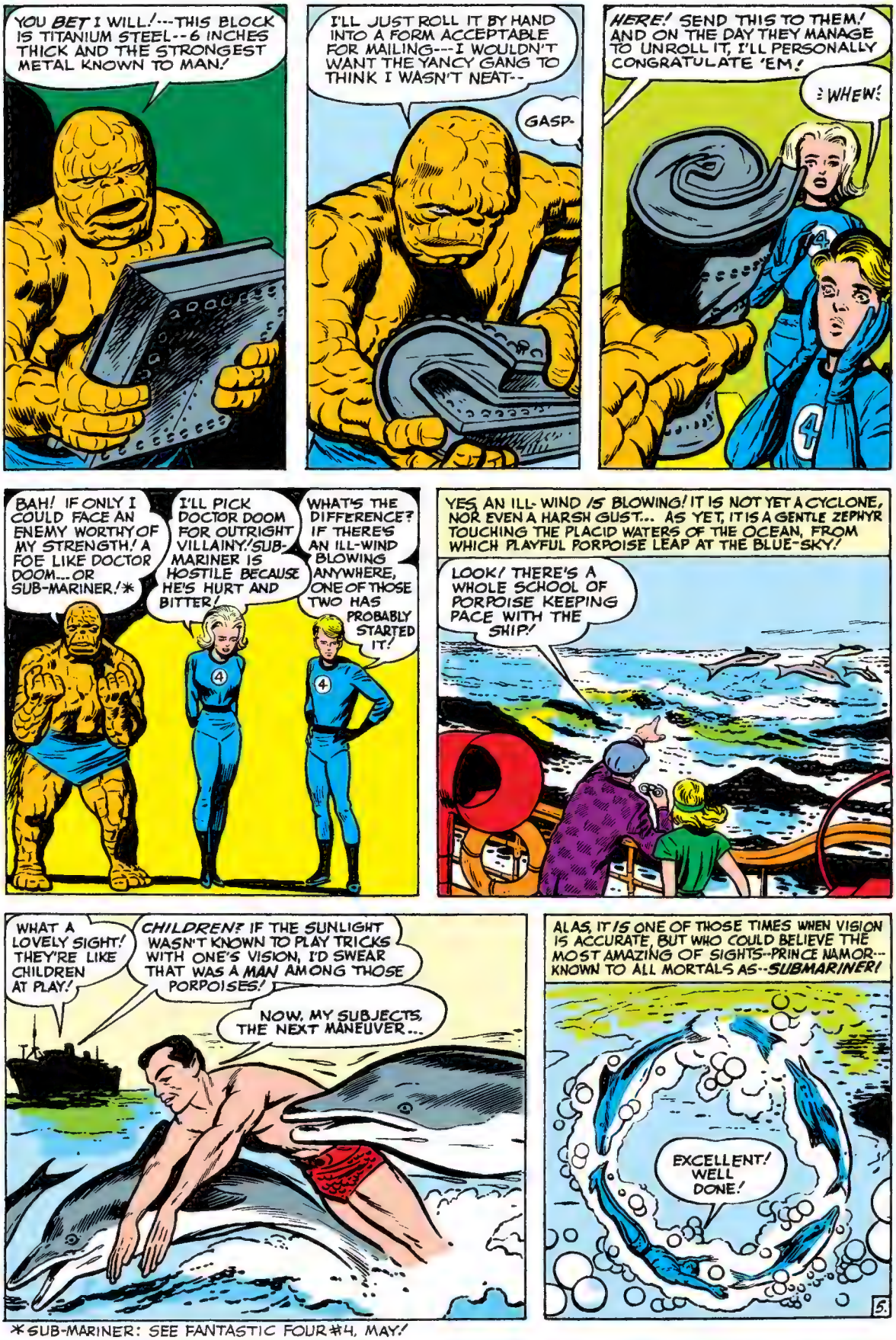
MEANWHILE, THE PASSENGERS IN THE ELEVATORS THAT PLY THE SHAFTS OF THE SKYSCRAPER, LITTLE REALIZE THAT A THIN WALL DIVIDES THEM FROM THE CAR THAT RISES SWIFTLY TOWARD THE MYSTERY WHICH LIES ABOVE THE THIRTY-THIRD FLOOR...



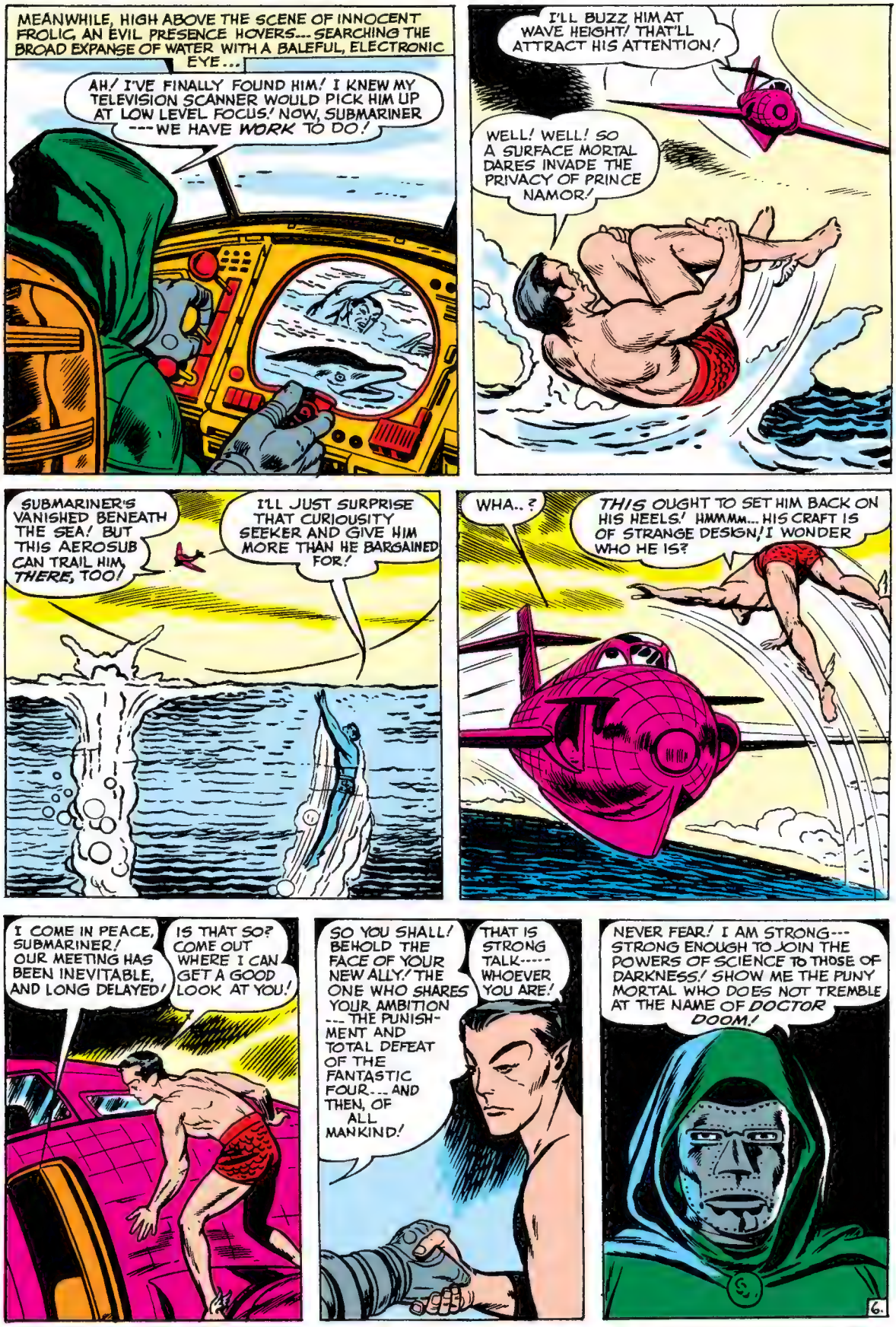
FOR IT IS ON THE 34TH STORY THAT THE WORLD OF THE ORDINARY VANISHES AND THE WELL-ORGANIZED DOMAIN OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR BEGINS! HERE IS THE COMPLETE BASE OF OPERATIONS FROM WHICH THE WAR AGAINST THE FORCES THAT WOULD DESTROY MAN'S FREEDOM IS WAGED WITH NEVER ENDING VIGILENCE!


POGO ORBIT PLANE HANGAR
FANTASTI-COPTER HANGAR
ELEVATOR SHAFT LEADING TO HANGARS
FANTASTI-CAR HANGAR
OBSERVATORY
ANTI-VIBRATION WALL, TO ABSORB SHOCK OF MISSILE LAUNCHING
PHOTO-ANALYSIS LAB
GIANT MAP ROOM
CONFERENCE ROOM INFORMATION FILES
PROJECTION ROOM CLOSED CIRCUIT TV CONTROL
HIDDEN ELEVATOR
MISSILE MONITOR-ING ROOM
MISSILE READY ROOM
LIVING QUARTERS... RECREATION ROOM
GYMNASIUM ON SAME FLOOR
TROPHY ROOM AND WEAPON COLLECTION
AMMO ROOM
CHEMICAL LABORATORY
ELECTRONICS LABORATORY
COMPUTERS
LONG RANGE PASSENGER MISSILE.. ABLE TO REACH ANY POINT ON EARTH IN MINUTES.
ROCKET EXHAUST FIRE TRAVELS DOWN THESE PIPES TO EXPEND ITS HEAT IN FIRE PITS BENEATH CITY SURFACE

THE INVISIBLE GIRL FINALLY EMERGES IN THE RECREATION ROOM...
TORCH! I WAS IN THE CROWD THAT WAS WATCHING YOUR RETURN... HAVE YOU...?
NOTHING TO REPORT ON DOCTOR DOOM! HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO COVER HIS TRACKS!
SURE! WHO COULDN'T HIDE FROM A HOT-HEADED TEEN-AGER? I'LL BET I COULD FIND HIM!
UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT DOCTOR DOOM IS UP TO, NONE OF US CAN FEEL SAFE!
DON'T WORRY SIS! WHATEVER HE DOES- WE'LL BE READY FOR 'IM!
IN THE MEANTIME WE HAVE A LOT OF MAIL TO CATCH UP WITH! HERE'S ANOTHER LETTER FROM THAT LITTLE BOY WHO'S HOSPITALIZED...
IN FACT HE'S AT HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL, RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET! THIS LETTER GIVES HIS FLOOR AND THE LOCATION OF HIS ROOM! SAY...
...WON'T HE BE TICKLED IF I JUST DROP IN FOR A VISIT, UNEXPECTEDLY! IT'LL SURE GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH HIS FELLOW "SHUT-INS!"
WHA--? I-I MUST BE SEEING THINGS! B-BUT NO! IT--IT'S MISTER FANTASTIC... IN PERSON!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE A CHAT, TOMMY!
HAPPILY, THE YOUNGSTER BUBBLES OVER, THROWING MANY QUESTIONS AT HIS FAMOUS GUEST!
WELL--THE REASON MY COSTUME STRETCHES TO ANY LENGTH THAT I DO, IS THAT IT IS WOVEN FROM CHEMICAL FIBERS CONTAINING UNSTABLE MOLECULES THAT SHIFT IN STRUCTURE WHEN I AFFECT THE CHANGE!
BUT THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS MADE UP OF CRITICS AS WELL AS FRIENDS... AND THERE ARE CHALLENGES AS WELL AS QUESTIONS!
"-AND IF THE THING WILL MEET US ON THE CORNER OF ASHBY AND MAIN STREET, WE'LL KNOCK THAT CHIP OFF HIS SHOULDER AND MAKE HIM LIKE IT! SIGNED--"
"...THE YANCY STREET GANG!" I'VE HEARD FROM THOSE MEALY-MOUTHED BRAGGARTS BEFORE! THEY GET THEIR KICKS OUT OF TRYIN' TO RILE ME!
WELL, ARE YOU GONNA ANSWER THEM, THING?
4.


YOU BET I WILL!---THIS BLOCK IS TITANIUM STEEL--6 INCHES THICK AND THE STRONGEST METAL KNOWN TO MAN!
I'LL JUST ROLL IT BY HAND INTO A FORM ACCEPTABLE FOR MAILING---I WOULDN'T WANT THE YANCY GANG TO THINK I WASN'T NEAT--
GASP-
HERE! SEND THIS TO THEM! AND ON THE DAY THEY MANAGE TO UNROLL IT, I'LL PERSONALLY CONGRATULATE 'EM!
WHEW!
BAH! IF ONLY I COULD FACE AN ENEMY WORTHY OF MY STRENGTH! A FOE LIKE DOCTOR DOOM...OR SUB-MARINER!*
I'LL PICK DOCTOR DOOM FOR OUTRIGHT VILLAINY! SUB-MARINER IS HOSTILE BECAUSE HE'S HURT AND BITTER!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? IF THERE'S AN ILL-WIND BLOWING ANYWHERE, ONE OF THOSE TWO HAS PROBABLY STARTED IT!
YES AN ILL-WIND IS BLOWING! IT IS NOT YET A CYCLONE, NOR EVEN A HARSH GUST... AS YET, IT IS A GENTLE ZEPHYR TOUCHING THE PLACID WATERS OF THE OCEAN, FROM WHICH PLAYFUL PORPOISE LEAP AT THE BLUE-SKY!
LOOK! THERE'S A WHOLE SCHOOL OF PORPOISE KEEPING PACE WITH THE SHIP!
WHAT A LOVELY SIGHT! THEY'RE LIKE CHILDREN AT PLAY!
CHILDREN? IF THE SUNLIGHT WASN'T KNOWN TO PLAY TRICKS WITH ONE'S VISION, I'D SWEAR THAT WAS A MAN AMONG THOSE PORPOISES!
NOW, MY SUBJECTS, THE NEXT MANEUVER...
ALAS, IT IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHEN VISION IS ACCURATE, BUT WHO COULD BELIEVE THE MOST AMAZING OF SIGHTS--PRINCE NAMOR--KNOWN TO ALL MORTALS AS--SUBMARINER!
EXCELLENT! WELL DONE!
5.

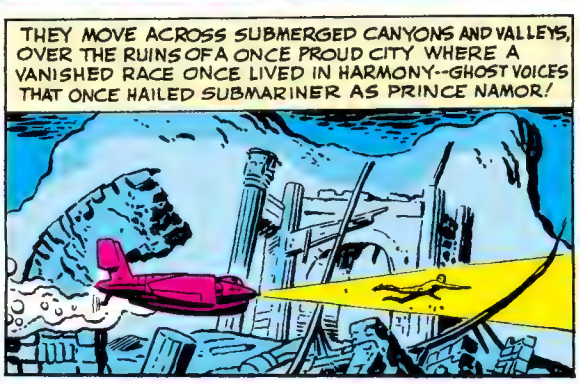
*SUB-MARINER: SEE FANTASTIC FOUR #4, MAY!

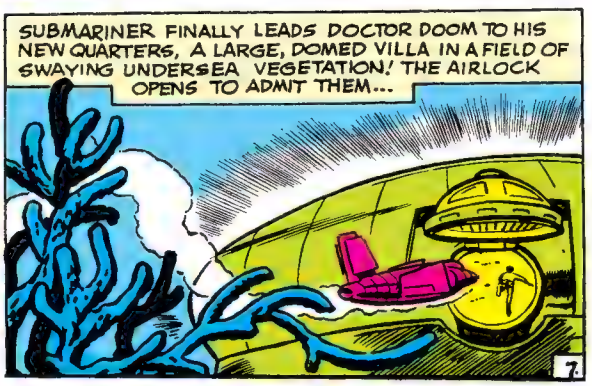

MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE SCENE OF INNOCENT FROLIC, AN EVIL PRESENCE HOVERS--- SEARCHING THE BROAD EXPANSE OF WATER WITH A BALEFUL, ELECTRONIC EYE...
AH! I'VE FINALLY FOUND HIM! I KNEW MY TELEVISION SCANNER WOULD PICK HIM UP AT LOW LEVEL FOCUS! NOW, SUBMARINER ---WE HAVE WORK TO DO!
I'LL BUZZ HIM AT WAVE HEIGHT! THAT'LL ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION!
WELL! WELL! SO A SURFACE MORTAL DARES INVADE THE PRIVACY OF PRINCE NAMOR!
SUBMARINER'S VANISHED BENEATH THE SEA! BUT THIS AEROSUB CAN TRAIL HIM, THERE, TOO!
I'LL JUST SURPRISE THAT CURIOUSITY SEEKER AND GIVE HIM MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR!
WHA..?
THIS OUGHT TO SET HIM BACK ON HIS HEELS! HMMMm... HIS CRAFT IS OF STRANGE DESIGN! I WONDER WHO HE IS?
I COME IN PEACE, SUBMARINER! OUR MEETING HAS BEEN INEVITABLE, AND LONG DELAYED!
IS THAT SO? COME OUT WHERE I CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU!
SO YOU SHALL! BEHOLD THE FACE OF YOUR NEW ALLY! THE ONE WHO SHARES YOUR AMBITION --- THE PUNISHMENT AND TOTAL DEFEAT OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR--- AND THEN, OF ALL MANKIND!
THAT IS STRONG TALK----- WHOEVER YOU ARE!
NEVER FEAR! I AM STRONG--- STRONG ENOUGH TO JOIN THE POWERS OF SCIENCE TO THOSE OF DARKNESS! SHOW ME THE PUNY MORTAL WHO DOES NOT TREMBLE AT THE NAME OF DOCTOR DOOM!
6.

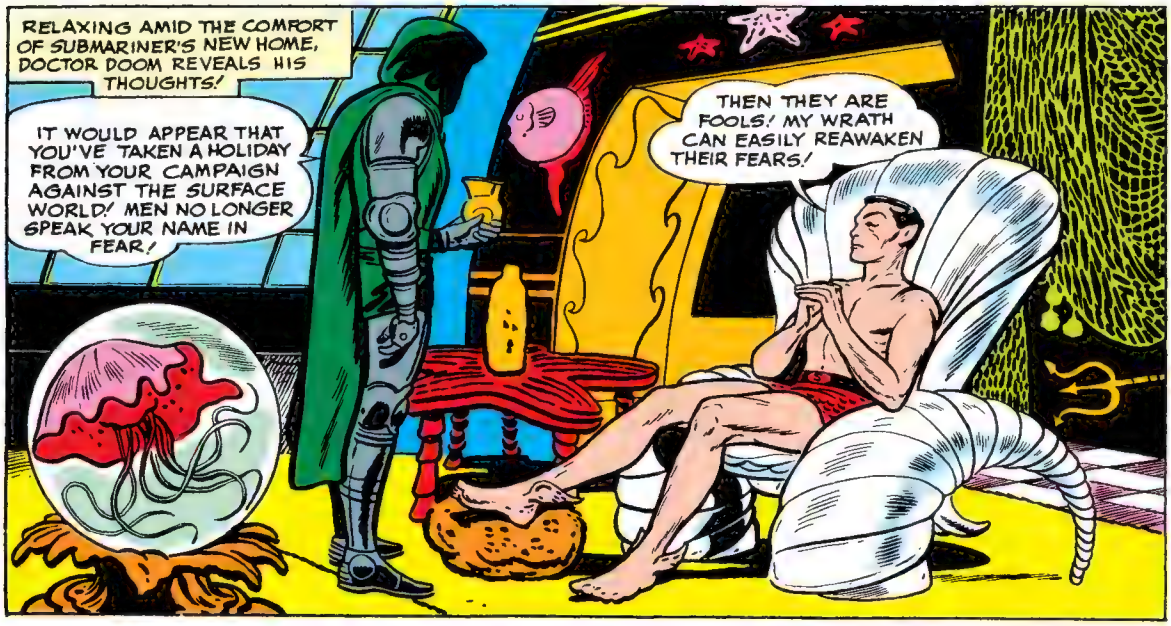
FANTASTIC FOUR in "WHEN SUPER-MENACES UNITE" PART 2

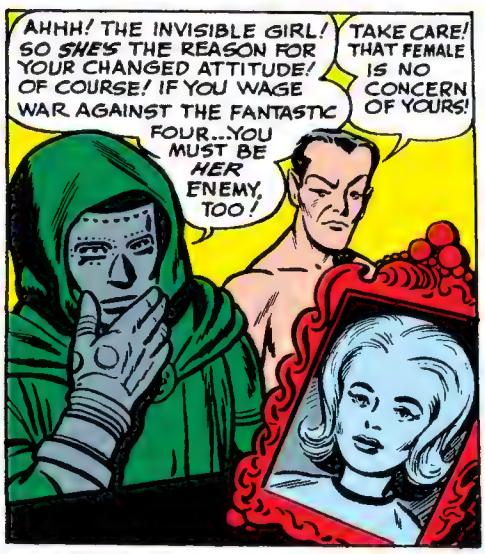
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY

EAGER FOR A PARLEY, DOCTOR DOOM FOLDS BACK THE WINGS OF HIS AERO SUB AND NOSES IT INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA, AS SUBMARINER DARTS THROUGH THE COLD GREEN SHADOWS OF HIS DOMAIN!
V-835

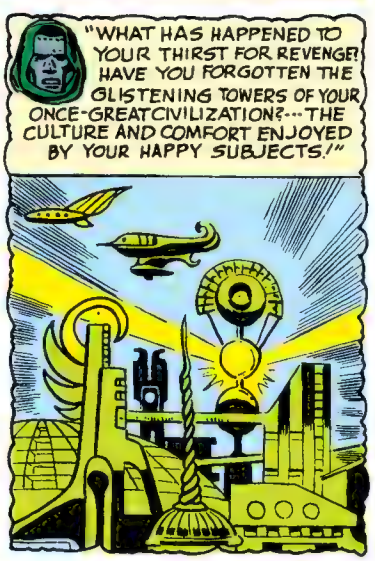

THEY MOVE ACROSS SUBMERGED CANYONS AND VALLEYS, OVER THE RUINS OF A ONCE PROUD CITY WHERE A VANISHED RACE ONCE LIVED IN HARMONY--GHOST VOICES THAT ONCE HAILED SUBMARINER AS PRINCE NAMOR!

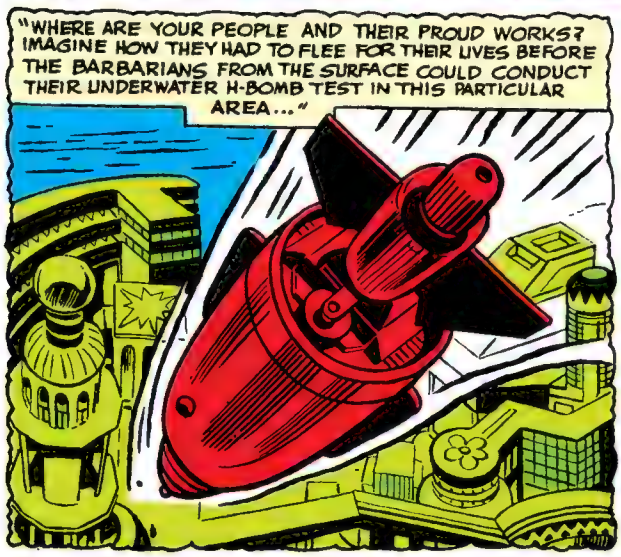

SUBMARINER FINALLY LEADS DOCTOR DOOM TO HIS NEW QUARTERS, A LARGE, DOMED VILLA IN A FIELD OF SWAYING UNDERSEA VEGETATION! THE AIRLOCK OPENS TO ADMIT THEM...
7

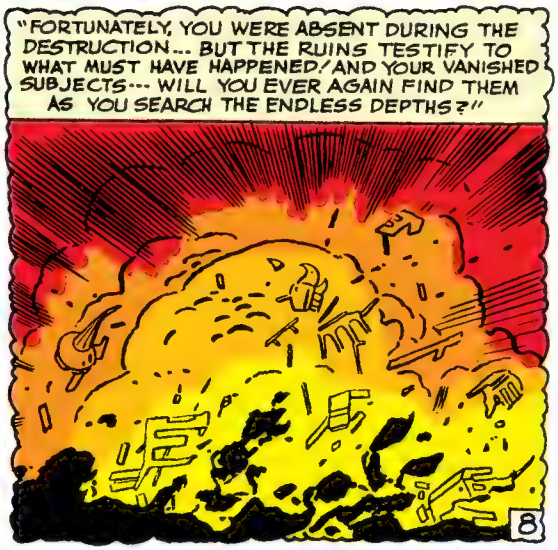

RELAXING AMID THE COMFORT OF SUBMARINER'S NEW HOME, DOCTOR DOOM REVEALS HIS THOUGHTS!
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOU'VE TAKEN A HOLIDAY FROM YOUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SURFACE WORLD! MEN NO LONGER SPEAK YOUR NAME IN FEAR!
THEN THEY ARE FOOLS! MY WRATH CAN EASILY REAWAKEN THEIR FEARS!

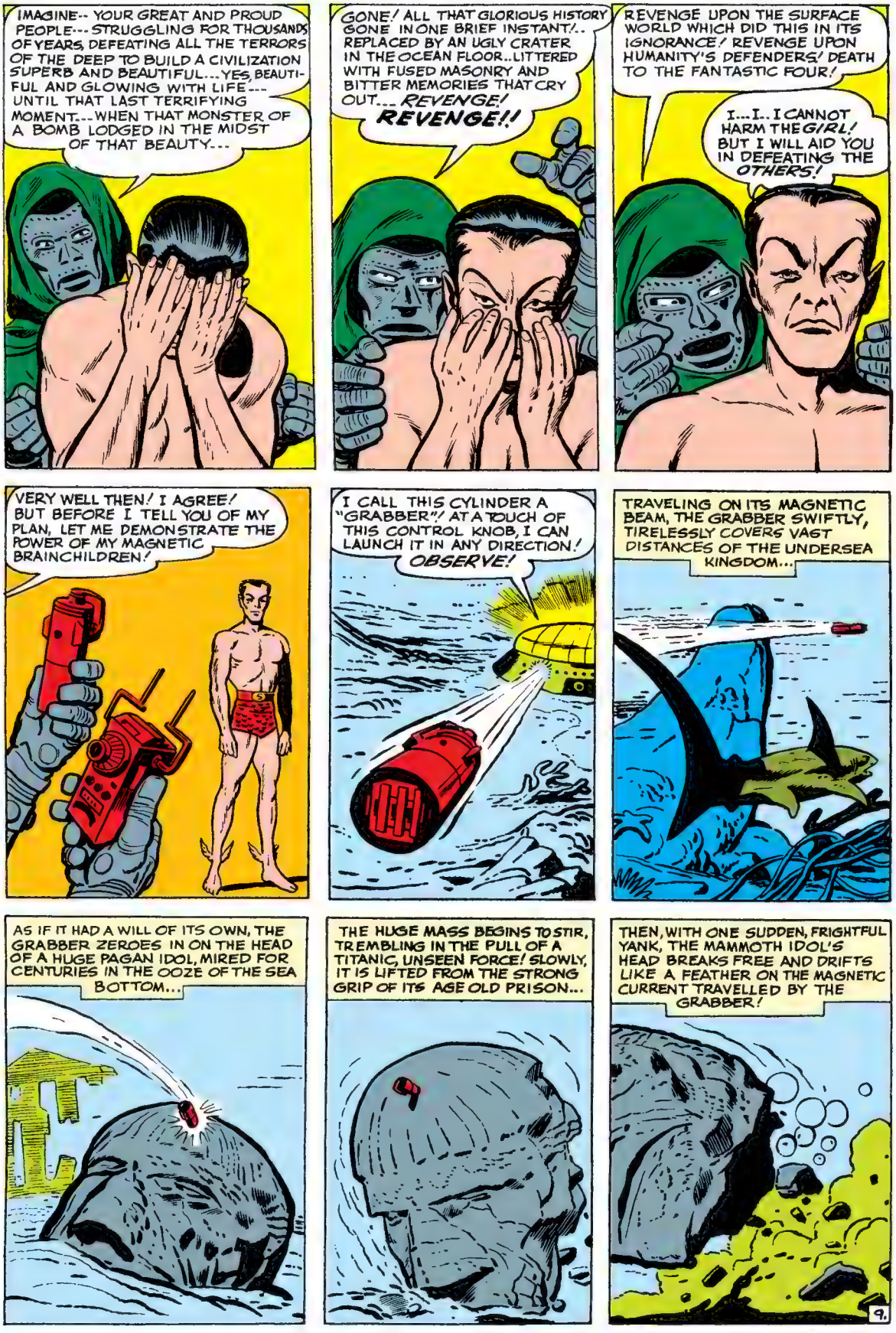

AHHH! THE INVISIBLE GIRL! SO SHE'S THE REASON FOR YOUR CHANGED ATTITUDE! OF COURSE! IF YOU WAGE WAR AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR...YOU MUST BE HER ENEMY, TOO!
TAKE CARE! THAT FEMALE IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS!

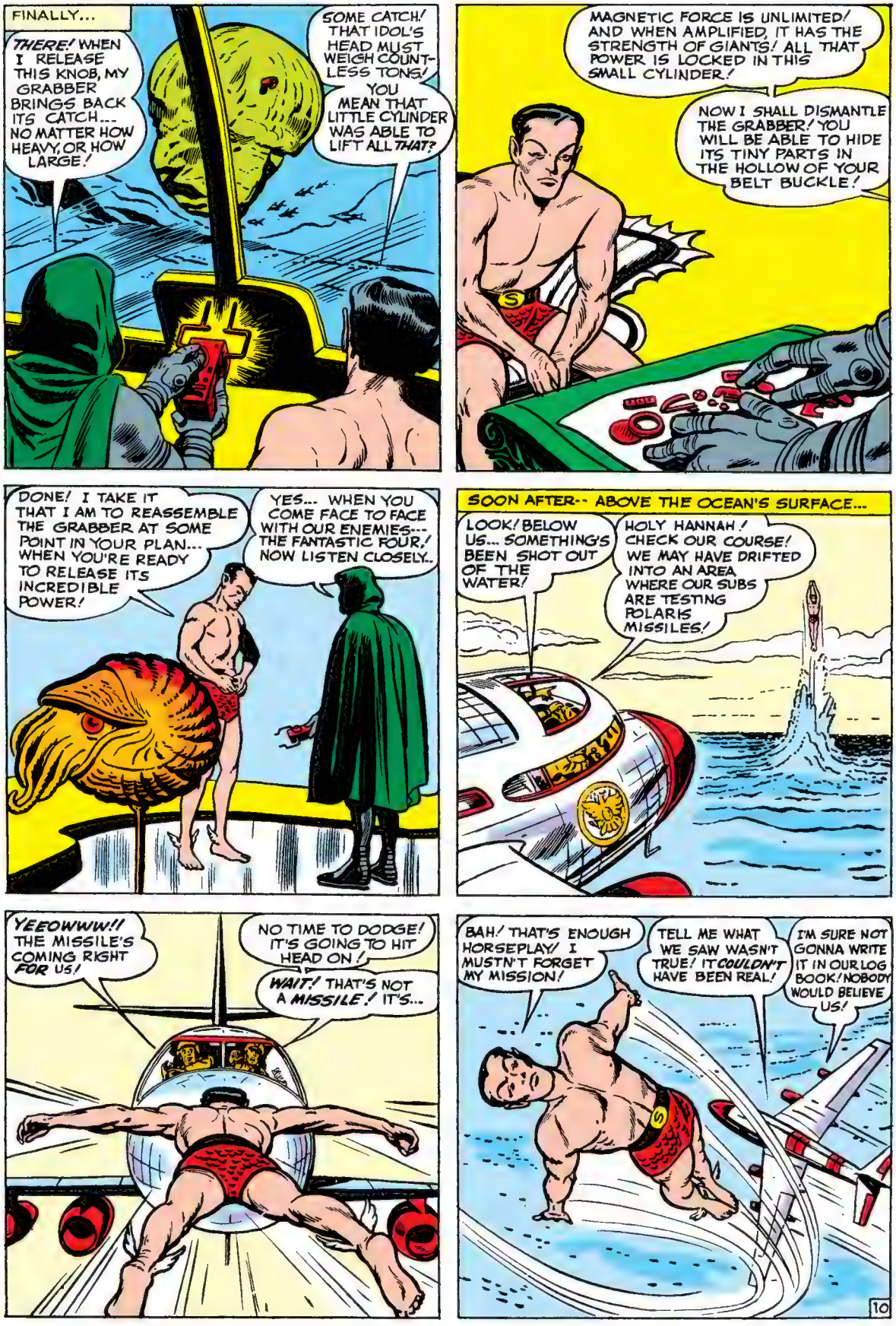
I'M MAKING IT MY CONCERN, SUBMARINER! IT MUST BE EVIDENT BY THIS TIME THAT TO DEFEAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR... IT MAY TAKE A "DIABOLICAL DUO"--- YOU AND I...STRIKING OUT FOR POWER AND REVENGE!

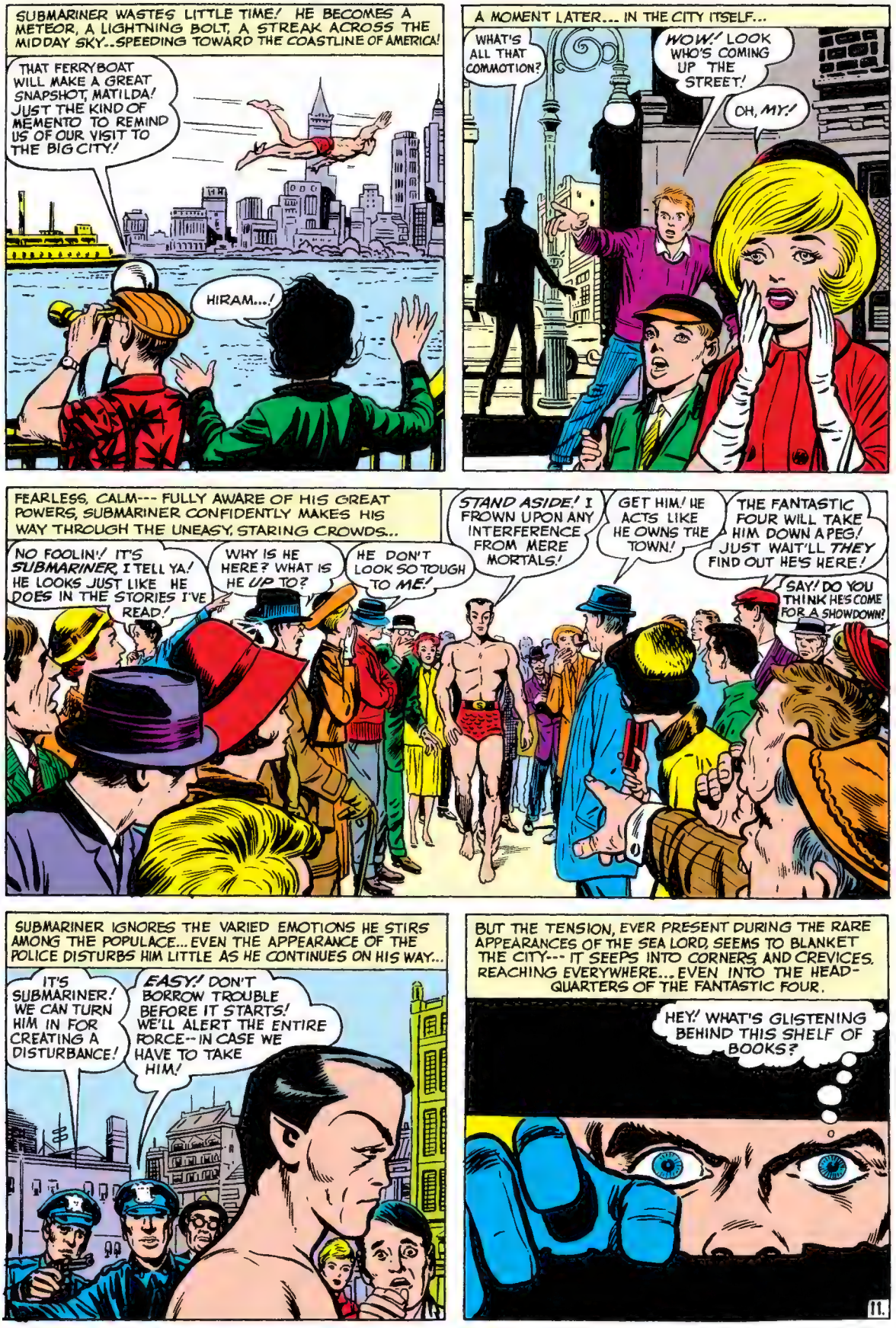

"WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR THIRST FOR REVENGE! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE GLISTENING TOWERS OF YOUR ONCE-GREAT CIVILIZATION?---THE CULTURE AND COMFORT ENJOYED BY YOUR HAPPY SUBJECTS!"

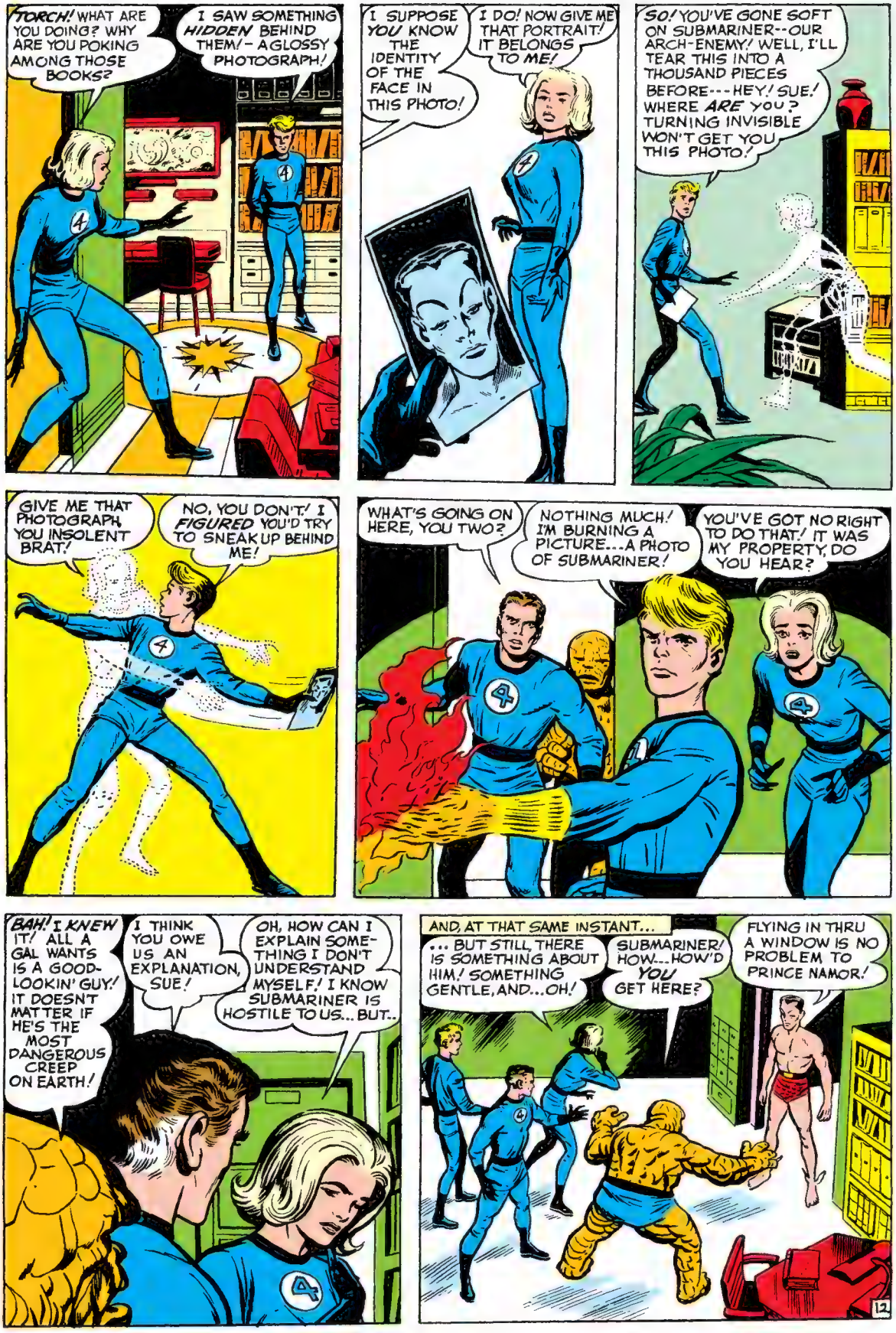

"WHERE ARE YOUR PEOPLE AND THEIR PROUD WORKS? IMAGINE HOW THEY HAD TO FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE BARBARIANS FROM THE SURFACE COULD CONDUCT THEIR UNDERWATER H-BOMB TEST IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA..."


"FORTUNATELY, YOU WERE ABSENT DURING THE DESTRUCTION... BUT THE RUINS TESTIFY TO WHAT MUST HAVE HAPPENED! AND YOUR VANISHED SUBJECTS--- WILL YOU EVER AGAIN FIND THEM AS YOU SEARCH THE ENDLESS DEPTHS?"


IMAGINE-- YOUR GREAT AND PROUD PEOPLE--- STRUGGLING FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, DEFEATING ALL THE TERRORS OF THE DEEP TO BUILD A CIVILIZATION SUPERB AND BEAUTIFUL... YES, BEAUTIFUL AND GLOWING WITH LIFE--- UNTIL THAT LAST TERRIFYING MOMENT... WHEN THAT MONSTER OF A BOMB LODGED IN THE MIDST OF THAT BEAUTY...
GONE! ALL THAT GLORIOUS HISTORY GONE IN ONE BRIEF INSTANT!.. REPLACED BY AN UGLY CRATER IN THE OCEAN FLOOR..LITTERED WITH FUSED MASONRY AND BITTER MEMORIES THAT CRY OUT... REVENGE! REVENGE!!
REVENGE UPON THE SURFACE WORLD WHICH DID THIS IN ITS IGNORANCE! REVENGE UPON HUMANITY'S DEFENDERS! DEATH TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
I...I..I CANNOT HARM THE GIRL! BUT I WILL AID YOU IN DEFEATING THE OTHERS!
VERY WELL THEN! I AGREE! BUT BEFORE I TELL YOU OF MY PLAN, LET ME DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF MY MAGNETIC BRAINCHILDREN!
I CALL THIS CYLINDER A "GRABBER"! AT A TOUCH OF THIS CONTROL KNOB, I CAN LAUNCH IT IN ANY DIRECTION! OBSERVE!
TRAVELING ON ITS MAGNETIC BEAM, THE GRABBER SWIFTLY, TIRELESSLY COVERS VAST DISTANCES OF THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM...
AS IF IT HAD A WILL OF ITS OWN, THE GRABBER ZEROES IN ON THE HEAD OF A HUGE PAGAN IDOL, MIRED FOR CENTURIES IN THE OOZE OF THE SEA BOTTOM...
THE HUGE MASS BEGINS TO STIR, TREMBLING IN THE PULL OF A TITANIC, UNSEEN FORCE! SLOWLY, IT IS LIFTED FROM THE STRONG GRIP OF ITS AGE OLD PRISON...
THEN, WITH ONE SUDDEN, FRIGHTFUL YANK, THE MAMMOTH IDOL'S HEAD BREAKS FREE AND DRIFTS LIKE A FEATHER ON THE MAGNETIC CURRENT TRAVELLED BY THE GRABBER!
9.

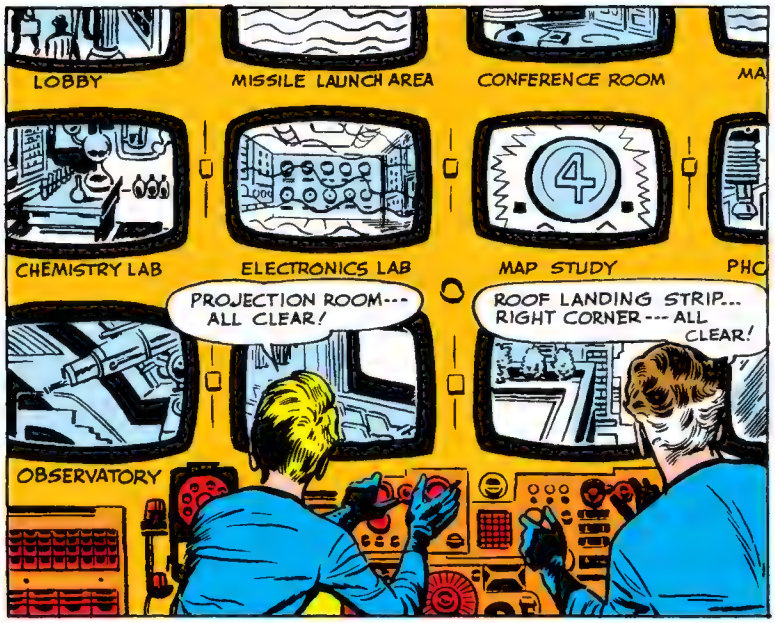

FINALLY...
THERE! WHEN I RELEASE THIS KNOB, MY GRABBER BRINGS BACK ITS CATCH... NO MATTER HOW HEAVY, OR HOW LARGE!
SOME CATCH! THAT IDOL'S HEAD MUST WEIGH COUNTLESS TONS!
YOU MEAN THAT LITTLE CYLINDER WAS ABLE TO LIFT ALL THAT?
MAGNETIC FORCE IS UNLIMITED! AND WHEN AMPLIFIED, IT HAS THE STRENGTH OF GIANTS! ALL THAT POWER IS LOCKED IN THIS SMALL CYLINDER!
NOW I SHALL DISMANTLE THE GRABBER! YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HIDE ITS TINY PARTS IN THE HOLLOW OF YOUR BELT BUCKLE!
DONE! I TAKE IT THAT I AM TO REASSEMBLE THE GRABBER AT SOME POINT IN YOUR PLAN... WHEN YOU'RE READY TO RELEASE ITS INCREDIBLE POWER!
YES... WHEN YOU COME FACE TO FACE WITH OUR ENEMIES--- THE FANTASTIC FOUR! NOW LISTEN CLOSELY..
SOON AFTER-- ABOVE THE OCEAN'S SURFACE...
LOOK! BELOW US... SOMETHING'S BEEN SHOT OUT OF THE WATER!
HOLY HANNAH! CHECK OUR COURSE! WE MAY HAVE DRIFTED INTO AN AREA WHERE OUR SUBS ARE TESTING POLARIS MISSILES!
YEEOWWW!! THE MISSILE'S COMING RIGHT FOR US!
NO TIME TO DODGE! IT'S GOING TO HIT HEAD ON!
WAIT! THAT'S NOT A MISSILE! IT'S...
BAH! THAT'S ENOUGH HORSEPLAY! I MUSTN'T FORGET MY MISSION!
TELL ME WHAT WE SAW WASN'T TRUE! IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN REAL!
I'M SURE NOT GONNA WRITE IT IN OUR LOG BOOK! NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE US!
10


SUBMARINER WASTES LITTLE TIME! HE BECOMES A METEOR, A LIGHTNING BOLT, A STREAK ACROSS THE MIDDAY SKY..SPEEDING TOWARD THE COASTLINE OF AMERICA!
THAT FERRYBOAT WILL MAKE A GREAT SNAPSHOT, MATILDA! JUST THE KIND OF MEMENTO TO REMIND US OF OUR VISIT TO THE BIG CITY!
HIRAM...!
A MOMENT LATER... IN THE CITY ITSELF...
WHAT'S ALL THAT COMMOTION?
WOW! LOOK WHO'S COMING UP THE STREET!
OH, MY!
FEARLESS, CALM--- FULLY AWARE OF HIS GREAT POWERS, SUBMARINER CONFIDENTLY MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH THE UNEASY, STARING CROWDS...
NO FOOLIN'! IT'S SUBMARINER, I TELL YA! HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HE DOES IN THE STORIES I'VE READ!
WHY IS HE HERE? WHAT IS HE UP TO?
HE DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME!
STAND ASIDE! I FROWN UPON ANY INTERFERENCE FROM MERE MORTALS!
GET HIM! HE ACTS LIKE HE OWNS THE TOWN!
THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL TAKE HIM DOWN A PEG! JUST WAIT'LL THEY FIND OUT HE'S HERE!
SAY! DO YOU THINK HE'S COME FOR A SHOWDOWN?
SUBMARINER IGNORES THE VARIED EMOTIONS HE STIRS AMONG THE POPULACE... EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF THE POLICE DISTURBS HIM LITTLE AS HE CONTINUES ON HIS WAY...
IT'S SUBMARINER! WE CAN TURN HIM IN FOR CREATING A DISTURBANCE!
EASY! DON'T BORROW TROUBLE BEFORE IT STARTS! WE'LL ALERT THE ENTIRE FORCE--IN CASE WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM!
BUT THE TENSION, EVER PRESENT DURING THE RARE APPEARANCES OF THE SEA LORD, SEEMS TO BLANKET THE CITY--- IT SEEPS INTO CORNERS AND CREVICES, REACHING EVERYWHERE... EVEN INTO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
HEY! WHAT'S GLISTENING BEHIND THIS SHELF OF BOOKS?

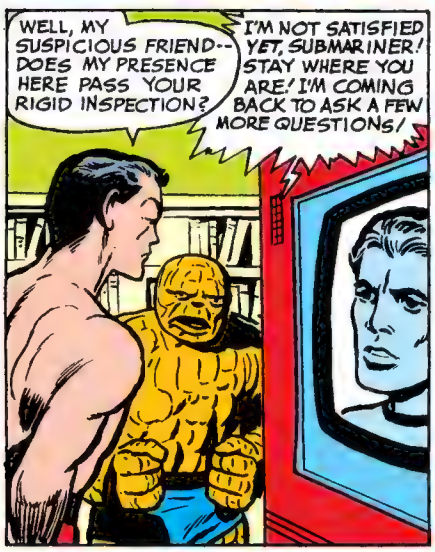

TORCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE YOU POKING AMONG THOSE BOOKS?
I SAW SOMETHING HIDDEN BEHIND THEM! - A GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPH!
I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE FACE IN THIS PHOTO!
I DO! NOW GIVE ME THAT PORTRAIT! IT BELONGS TO ME!
SO! YOU'VE GONE SOFT ON SUBMARINER--OUR ARCH-ENEMY! WELL, I'LL TEAR THIS INTO A THOUSAND PIECES BEFORE---HEY! SUE! WHERE ARE YOU? TURNING INVISIBLE WON'T GET YOU THIS PHOTO!
GIVE ME THAT PHOTOGRAPH, YOU INSOLENT BRAT!
NO, YOU DON'T! I FIGURED YOU'D TRY TO SNEAK UP BEHIND ME!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, YOU TWO?
NOTHING MUCH! I'M BURNING A PICTURE...A PHOTO OF SUBMARINER!
YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO DO THAT! IT WAS MY PROPERTY, DO YOU HEAR?
BAH! I KNEW IT! ALL A GAL WANTS IS A GOOD-LOOKIN' GUY! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS CREEP ON EARTH!
I THINK YOU OWE US AN EXPLANATION, SUE!
OH, HOW CAN I EXPLAIN SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND MYSELF! I KNOW SUBMARINER IS HOSTILE TO US... BUT..
AND, AT THAT SAME INSTANT...
... BUT STILL, THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM! SOMETHING GENTLE, AND...OH!
SUBMARINER! HOW...HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
FLYING IN THRU A WINDOW IS NO PROBLEM TO PRINCE NAMOR!
12

FANTASTIC FOUR in
PART 3
"WHEN FRIENDS FALL OUT!"
WAIT! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP OUR TEMPERS! LET HIM SPEAK HIS PIECE!
I WON'T GIVE HIM THE CHANCE! I'LL... I'LL PULVERIZE THAT HUMAN FISH INTO DRY DUST! LET ME AT HIM!
NO! IF SUBMARINER MEANT US HARM, HE WOULDN'T HAVE WALKED IN AMONG US THIS WAY...
THE GIRL IS RIGHT! MY MISSION IS ONE OF PEACE!
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
V-835
WELL, I DON'T BELIEVE HIM! STAND AWAY FROM HIM, SUE! I'LL SEE TO IT THAT HE DOESN'T ESCAPE US AGAIN!
A CIRCLE OF FLAME!
V-835
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU MUST HEAR HIM OUT! WHY, HE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO DEFEND HIMSELF!
HE'S TOO ANGRY TO LISTEN TO REASON! YOU'D BEST STAY OUT OF THE WAY! I DO NOT FEAR THE TORCH!
13

WAIT.. !!
PRINCE NAMOR FEARS NOTHING ON THIS PLANET! LET HIM DO HIS WORST!
WE'LL SEE HOW BRAVE YOU ARE, MISTER BIG TALK! I THINK I'LL SOFTEN UP YOUR STEEL NERVES BEFORE I REALLY GO TO WORK ON YOU!
THE HUMAN TORCH BURNS A CIRCLE OF FIRE INTO THE FLOOR AROUND SUBMARINER! AND WHEN IT'S COMPLETED...
JUST THE KIND OF CHILDISH PRANK I'D EXPECT FROM YOU!
YOU WON'T THINK SO IN ONE SECOND !!
SUDDENLY, THE FLOOR GIVES WAY BENEATH SUBMARINER'S FEET AS THE FLAMING CIRCLE FALLS INTO THE ROOM BELOW!
WELL, YOU CAN SEE I DID NOT FALL THROUGH! YOU FORGOT I HAVE THE POWER TO DEFY GRAVITY!
BUT, UNLIKE YOU, MY POWER DOES NOT FADE, EVEN AS YOUR FLAME BEGINS TO FADE NOW!
AND INDEED, BEFORE THE HUMAN TORCH CAN ACT, HIS WHITE HOT FLAME LOSES ITS CONSISTENCY AND BEGINS TO COOL---UNTIL---
MY FLAME HAS RUN ITS TIME LIMIT! I'M CHANGING BACK TO HUMAN FORM! I'VE FAILED! ...FAILED!
FATE HAS GIVEN YOU A REPRIEVE, SUBMARINER! ....NOW SPEAK... OR GIVE BATTLE!
I'VE COME TO SEEK YOUR TRUST! YOU SEE, MINE IS A LONELY KINGDOM... AND A LASTING FRIENDSHIP MAY PROVE OF MORE VALUE THAN ANY FLEETING TASTE OF REVENGE !!
VERY IMPRESSIVE, SUBMARINER, ONLY I'M NOT INCLINED TO SHAKE YOUR HAND TOO READILY! HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S NOT A PLOT? HOW DO WE KNOW YOU HAVEN'T SET A TRAP?
YEAH! YOU'D BETTER DO SOME FAST CHECKING, PAL! I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!
OH, PLEASE LISTEN TO HIM! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S SINCERE?
I'M STILL FOR CHECKING! COME ON, TORCH! WE CAN LOOK IN ON EVERY ROOM BY CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION!
WE CAN FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH IF HE'S SET ANY TRAPS IN HERE!
14.

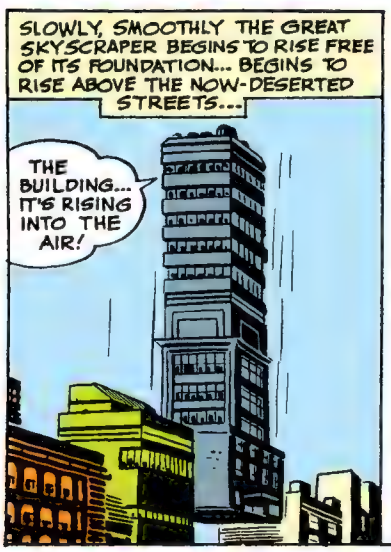

LOBBY
MISSILE LAUNCH AREA
CONFERENCE ROOM
CHEMISTRY LAB
ELECTRONICS LAB
MAP STUDY
PROJECTION ROOM--- ALL CLEAR!
ROOF LANDING STRIP... RIGHT CORNER --- ALL CLEAR!
OBSERVATORY

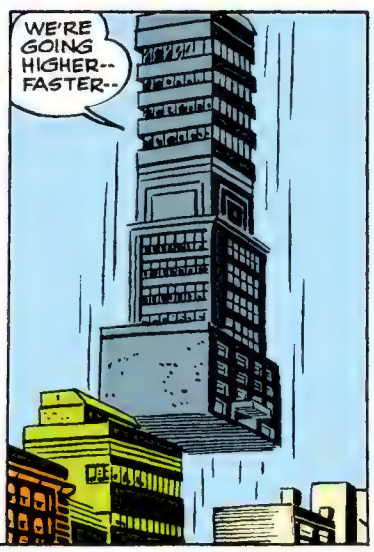
I DON'T GET IT! WE'VE SCANNED EVERY CORNER OF OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS WITHOUT FINDING ONE BOOBY TRAP! NOTHING SEEMS AMISS! YET, I CAN'T GET RID OF THE FEELING THAT SUBMARINER'S BEEN UP TO NO GOOD!
LUCKILY THE WORKING DAY IS OVER! THE REST OF THE BUILDING IS EMPTY! WE CAN CHECK THAT OUT, TOO!


WELL, MY SUSPICIOUS FRIEND--DOES MY PRESENCE HERE PASS YOUR RIGID INSPECTION?
I'M NOT SATISFIED YET, SUBMARINER! STAY WHERE YOU ARE! I'M COMING BACK TO ASK A FEW MORE QUESTIONS!

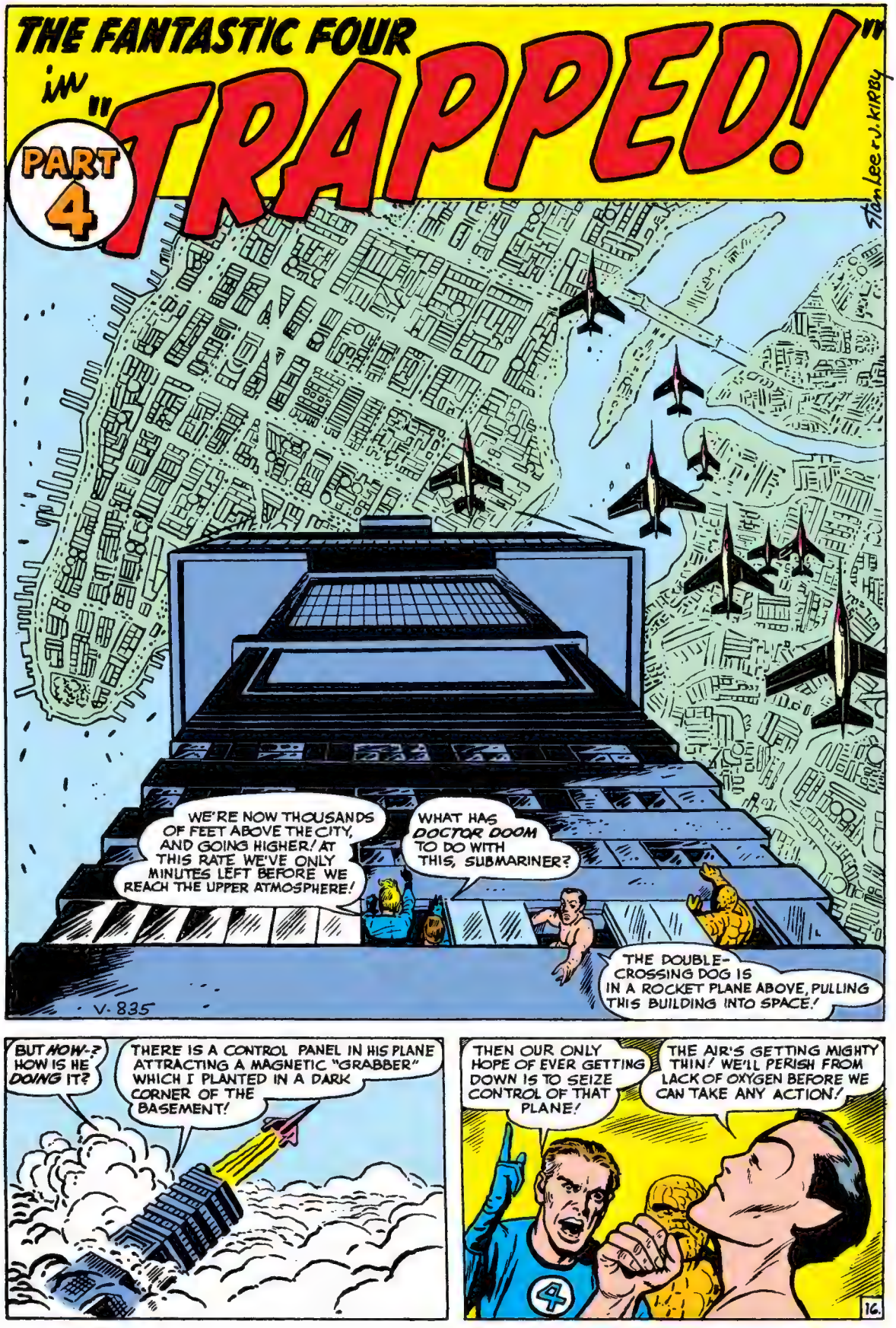
WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE TIME BEING! I'M ON A HOLIDAY---AND I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE THIS CHARMING YOUNG LADY ON A TOUR OF THE CITY..
LIBRARY

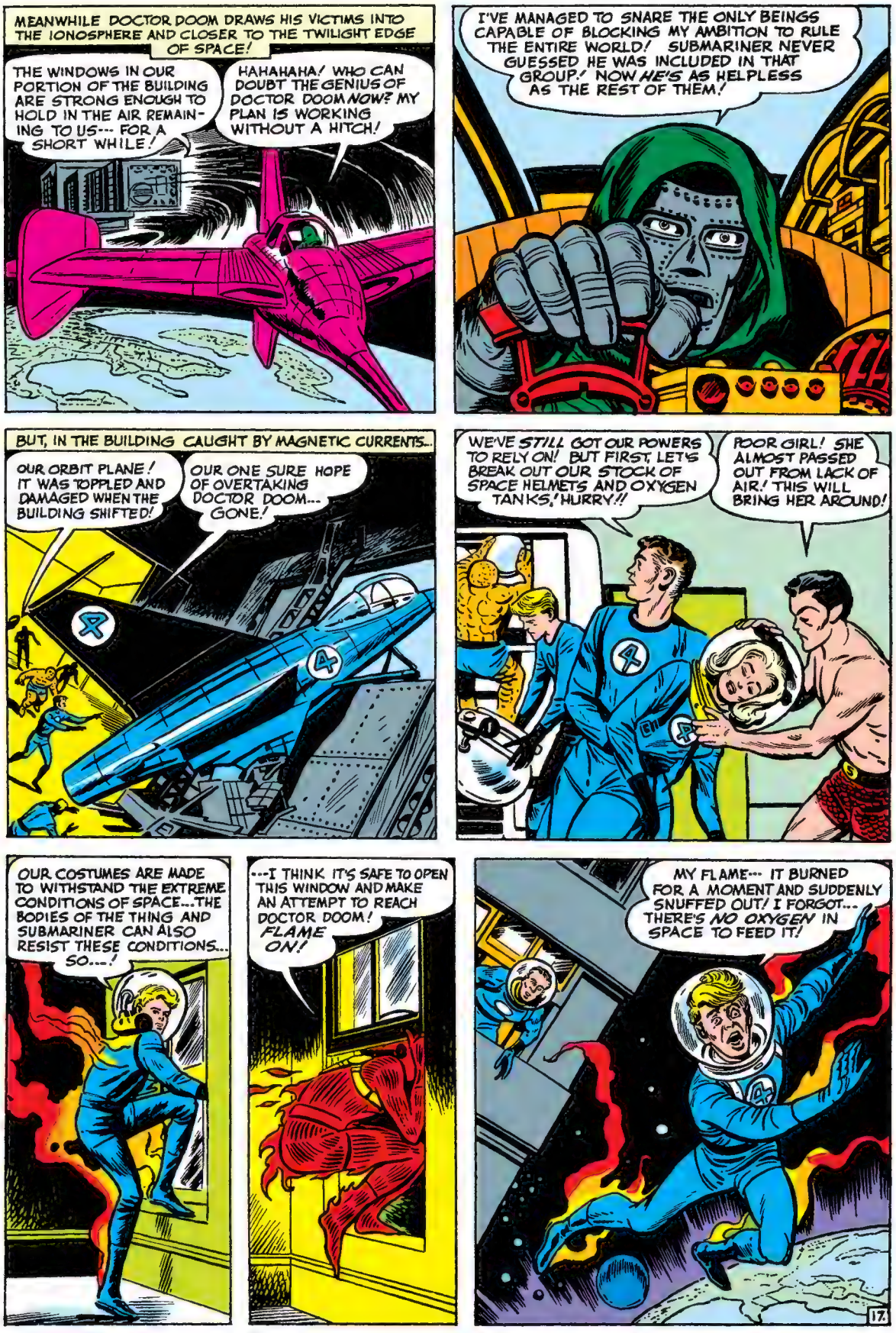
SUBMARINER'S FLIPPANT MOOD SUDDENLY VANISHES AS A LOUD TREMOR SHAKES THE ENTIRE BUILDING!
CRACK

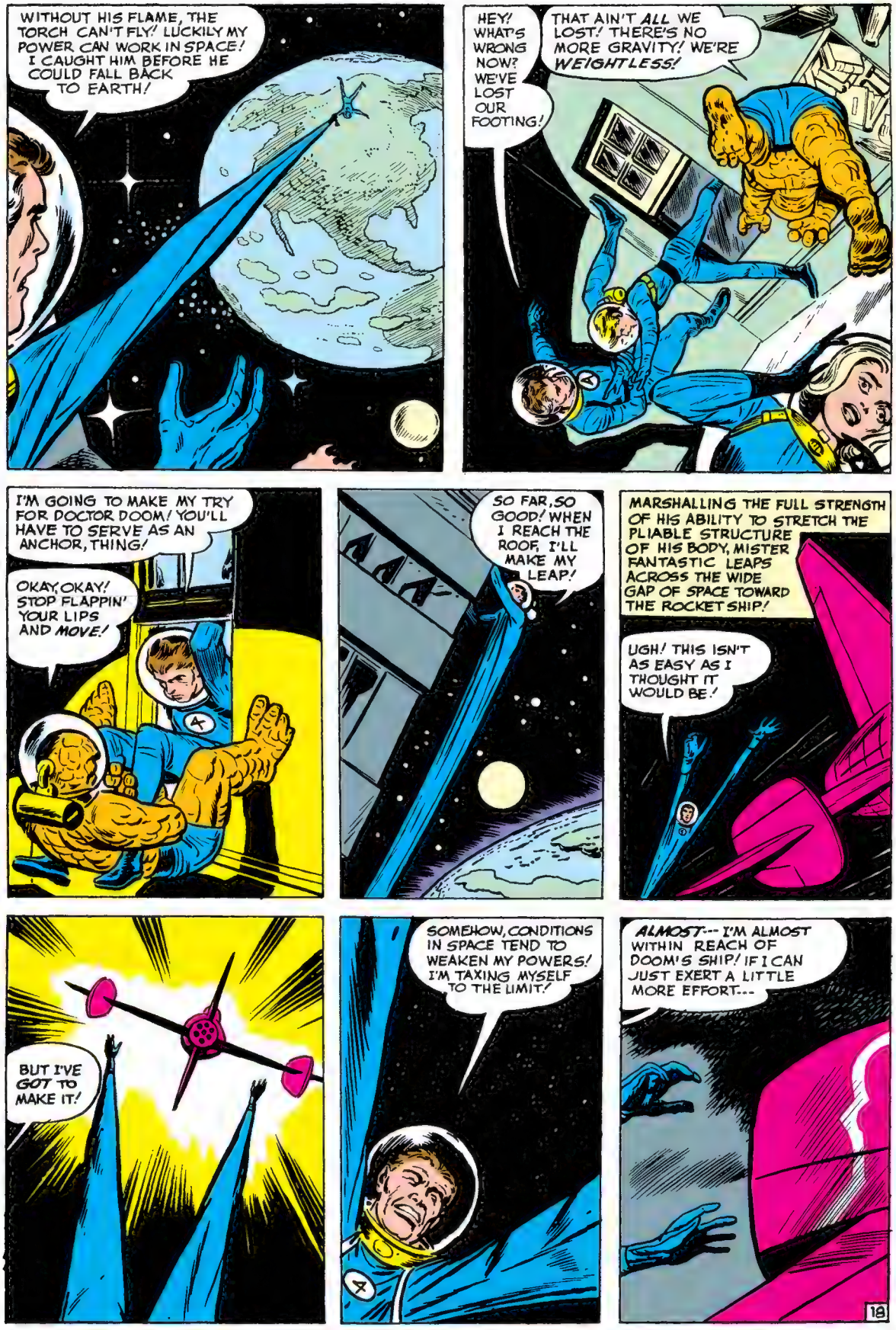

SLOWLY, SMOOTHLY THE GREAT SKYSCRAPER BEGINS TO RISE FREE OF ITS FOUNDATION... BEGINS TO RISE ABOVE THE NOW-DESERTED STREETS...
THE BUILDING... IT'S RISING INTO THE AIR!

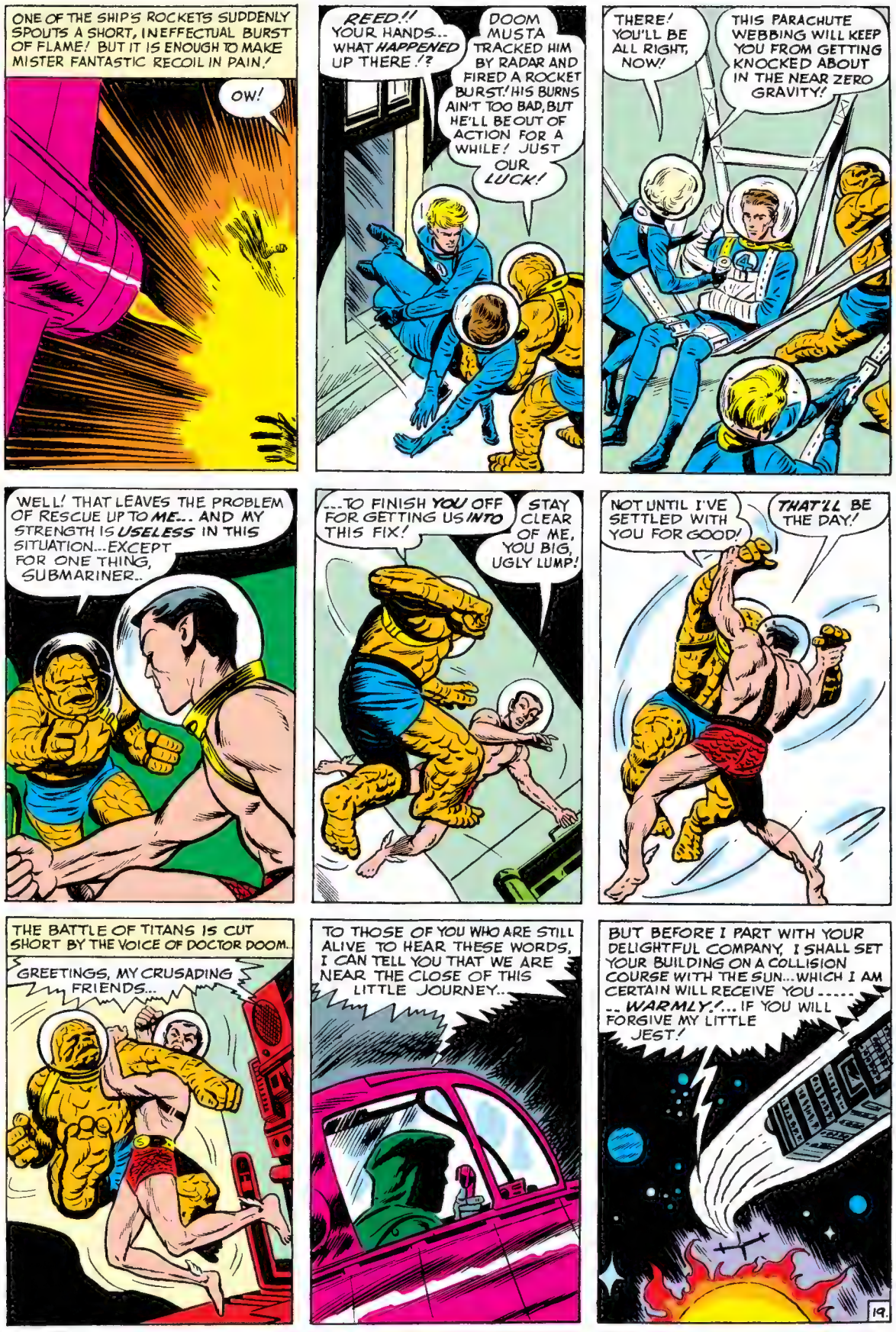

WE'RE GOING HIGHER--FASTER--

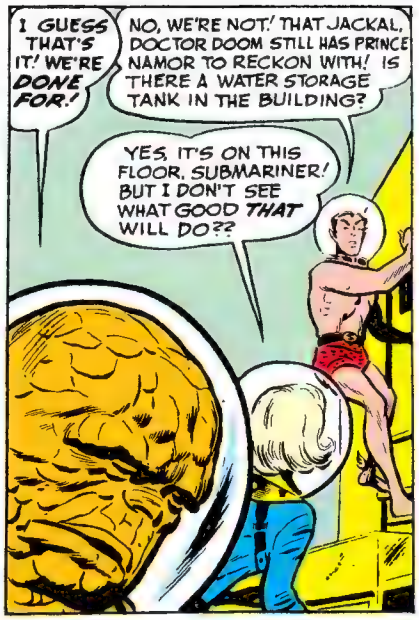
THIS IS YOUR DOING, SUBMARINER! YOU CAN STOP THIS!
I CAN'T, YOU FOOLS! I PLANTED THE TRAP... BUT IT'S BEEN TRIGGERED BY DOCTOR DOOM!

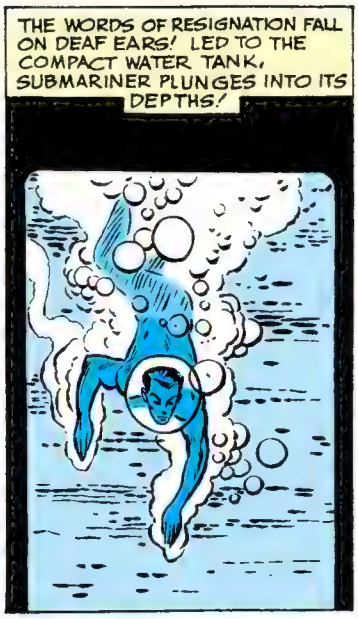

THE FANTASTIC FOUR in "TRAPPED!"
PART 4
Stan Lee r.v.s. KIRBY
WE'RE NOW THOUSANDS OF FEET ABOVE THE CITY, AND GOING HIGHER! AT THIS RATE WE'VE ONLY MINUTES LEFT BEFORE WE REACH THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE!
WHAT HAS DOCTOR DOOM TO DO WITH THIS, SUBMARINER?
THE DOUBLE-CROSSING DOG IS IN A ROCKET PLANE ABOVE, PULLING THIS BUILDING INTO SPACE!
V-835
BUT HOW-? HOW IS HE DOING IT?
THERE IS A CONTROL PANEL IN HIS PLANE ATTRACTING A MAGNETIC "GRABBER" WHICH I PLANTED IN A DARK CORNER OF THE BASEMENT!
THEN OUR ONLY HOPE OF EVER GETTING DOWN IS TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THAT PLANE!
THE AIR'S GETTING MIGHTY THIN! WE'LL PERISH FROM LACK OF OXYGEN BEFORE WE CAN TAKE ANY ACTION!
16.


MEANWHILE DOCTOR DOOM DRAWS HIS VICTIMS INTO THE IONOSPHERE AND CLOSER TO THE TWILIGHT EDGE OF SPACE!
THE WINDOWS IN OUR PORTION OF THE BUILDING ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD IN THE AIR REMAINING TO US--- FOR A SHORT WHILE!
HAHAHAHA! WHO CAN DOUBT THE GENIUS OF DOCTOR DOOM NOW? MY PLAN IS WORKING WITHOUT A HITCH!
I'VE MANAGED TO SNARE THE ONLY BEINGS CAPABLE OF BLOCKING MY AMBITION TO RULE THE ENTIRE WORLD! SUBMARINER NEVER GUESSED HE WAS INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP! NOW HE'S AS HELPLESS AS THE REST OF THEM!
BUT, IN THE BUILDING CAUGHT BY MAGNETIC CURRENTS...
OUR ORBIT PLANE! IT WAS TOPPLED AND DAMAGED WHEN THE BUILDING SHIFTED!
OUR ONE SURE HOPE OF OVERTAKING DOCTOR DOOM... GONE!
WE'VE STILL GOT OUR POWERS TO RELY ON! BUT FIRST, LET'S BREAK OUT OUR STOCK OF SPACE HELMETS AND OXYGEN TANKS, HURRY!!
POOR GIRL! SHE ALMOST PASSED OUT FROM LACK OF AIR! THIS WILL BRING HER AROUND!
OUR COSTUMES ARE MADE TO WITHSTAND THE EXTREME CONDITIONS OF SPACE...THE BODIES OF THE THING AND SUBMARINER CAN ALSO RESIST THESE CONDITIONS... SO...!
...I THINK IT'S SAFE TO OPEN THIS WINDOW AND MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO REACH DOCTOR DOOM! FLAME ON!
MY FLAME--- IT BURNED FOR A MOMENT AND SUDDENLY SNUFFED OUT! I FORGOT... THERE'S NO OXYGEN IN SPACE TO FEED IT!
17

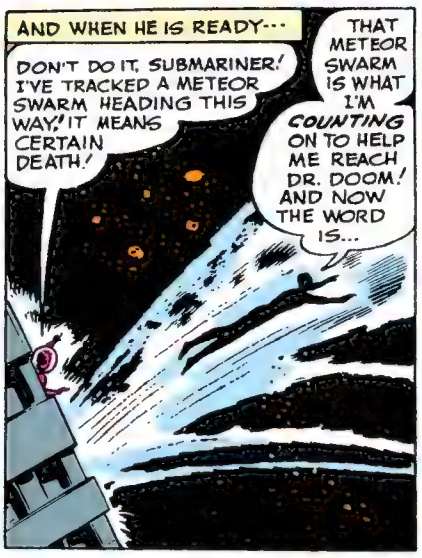

WITHOUT HIS FLAME, THE TORCH CAN'T FLY! LUCKILY MY POWER CAN WORK IN SPACE! I CAUGHT HIM BEFORE HE COULD FALL BACK TO EARTH!
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG NOW? WE'VE LOST OUR FOOTING!
THAT AIN'T ALL WE LOST! THERE'S NO MORE GRAVITY! WE'RE WEIGHTLESS!
I'M GOING TO MAKE MY TRY FOR DOCTOR DOOM! YOU'LL HAVE TO SERVE AS AN ANCHOR, THING!
OKAY, OKAY! STOP FLAPPIN' YOUR LIPS AND MOVE!
SO FAR, SO GOOD! WHEN I REACH THE ROOF, I'LL MAKE MY LEAP!
MARSHALLING THE FULL STRENGTH OF HIS ABILITY TO STRETCH THE PLIABLE STRUCTURE OF HIS BODY, MISTER FANTASTIC LEAPS ACROSS THE WIDE GAP OF SPACE TOWARD THE ROCKET SHIP!
UGH! THIS ISN'T AS EASY AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!
BUT I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT!
SOMEHOW, CONDITIONS IN SPACE TEND TO WEAKEN MY POWERS! I'M TAXING MYSELF TO THE LIMIT!
ALMOST--- I'M ALMOST WITHIN REACH OF DOOM'S SHIP! IF I CAN JUST EXERT A LITTLE MORE EFFORT---


ONE OF THE SHIP'S ROCKETS SUDDENLY SPOUTS A SHORT, INEFFECTUAL BURST OF FLAME! BUT IT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE MISTER FANTASTIC RECOIL IN PAIN!
OW!
REED!! YOUR HANDS... WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE!?
DOOM MUSTA TRACKED HIM BY RADAR AND FIRED A ROCKET BURST! HIS BURNS AIN'T TOO BAD, BUT HE'LL BE OUT OF ACTION FOR A WHILE! JUST OUR LUCK!
THERE! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT, NOW!
THIS PARACHUTE WEBBING WILL KEEP YOU FROM GETTING KNOCKED ABOUT IN THE NEAR ZERO GRAVITY!
WELL! THAT LEAVES THE PROBLEM OF RESCUE UP TO ME... AND MY STRENGTH IS USELESS IN THIS SITUATION... EXCEPT FOR ONE THING, SUBMARINER..
...TO FINISH YOU OFF FOR GETTING US INTO THIS FIX!
STAY CLEAR OF ME, YOU BIG, UGLY LUMP!
NOT UNTIL I'VE SETTLED WITH YOU FOR GOOD!
THAT'LL BE THE DAY!
THE BATTLE OF TITANS IS CUT SHORT BY THE VOICE OF DOCTOR DOOM.
GREETINGS, MY CRUSADING FRIENDS...
TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE STILL ALIVE TO HEAR THESE WORDS, I CAN TELL YOU THAT WE ARE NEAR THE CLOSE OF THIS LITTLE JOURNEY..
BUT BEFORE I PART WITH YOUR DELIGHTFUL COMPANY, I SHALL SET YOUR BUILDING ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE SUN... WHICH I AM CERTAIN WILL RECEIVE YOU ....WARMLY!... IF YOU WILL FORGIVE MY LITTLE JEST!
19.


I GUESS THAT'S IT! WE'RE DONE FOR!
NO, WE'RE NOT! THAT JACKAL, DOCTOR DOOM STILL HAS PRINCE NAMOR TO RECKON WITH! IS THERE A WATER STORAGE TANK IN THE BUILDING?
YES, IT'S ON THIS FLOOR, SUBMARINER! BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT GOOD THAT WILL DO??


THE WORDS OF RESIGNATION FALL ON DEAF EARS! LED TO THE COMPACT WATER TANK, SUBMARINER PLUNGES INTO ITS DEPTHS!

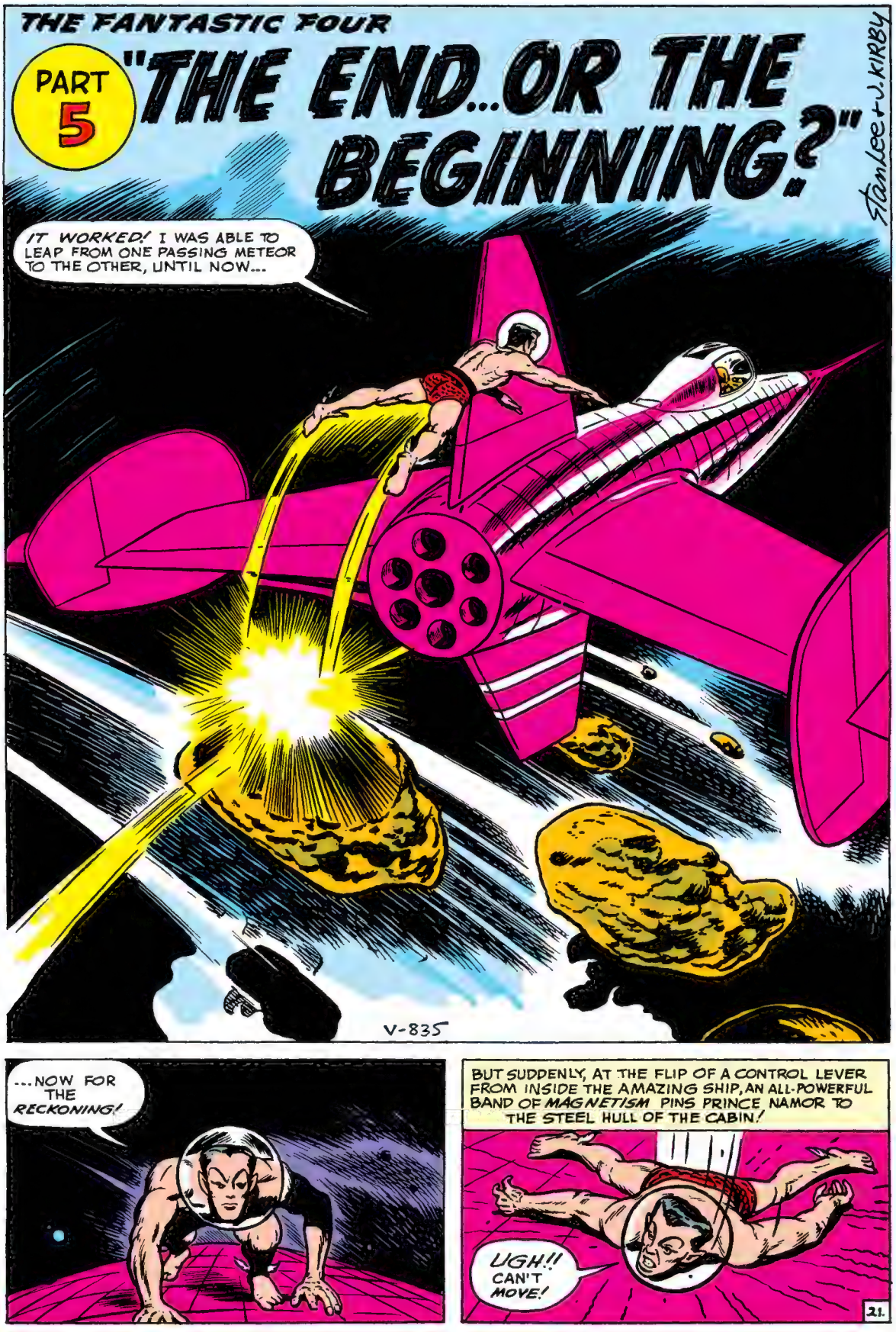
AHHH···THIS IS MORE LIKE HOME! I CAN FEEL MYSELF GROWING STRONGER... STRONGER ... DOUBLING MY POWER FOR THE LEAP INTO SPACE!
I'VE TAKEN TREMENDOUS LEAPS OUT OF THE OCEAN... FURTHER THAN ANY PORPOISE! WHY SHOULD I NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT NOW...WHEN I DARE NOT FAIL?!!

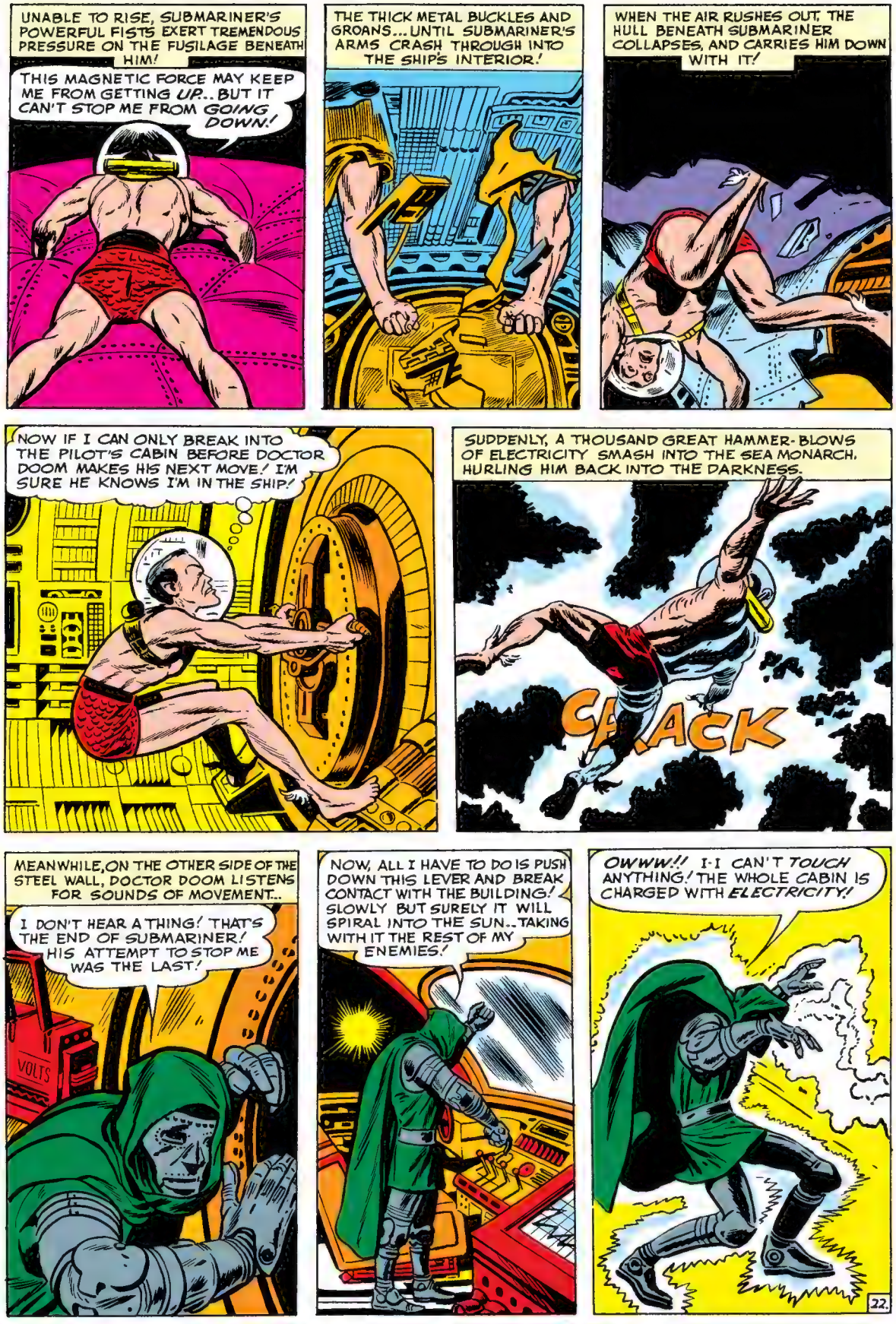

AND WHEN HE IS READY···
DON'T DO IT, SUBMARINER! I'VE TRACKED A METEOR SWARM HEADING THIS WAY! IT MEANS CERTAIN DEATH!
THAT METEOR SWARM IS WHAT I'M COUNTING ON TO HELP ME REACH DR. DOOM! AND NOW THE WORD IS...

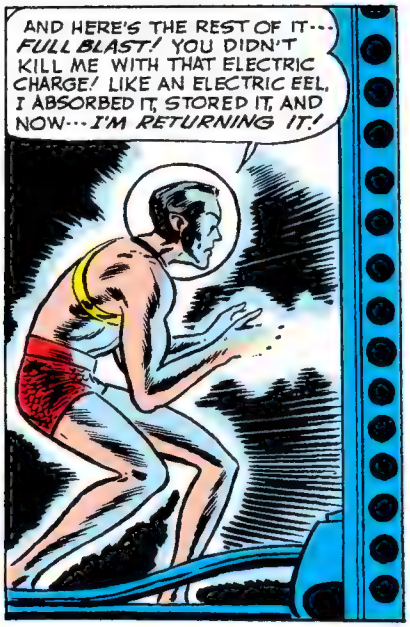
...GO!

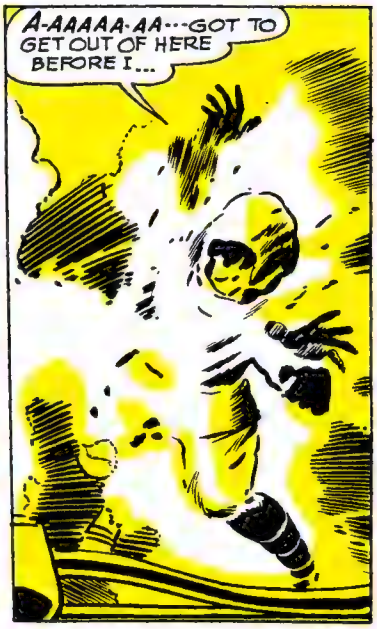
GO!

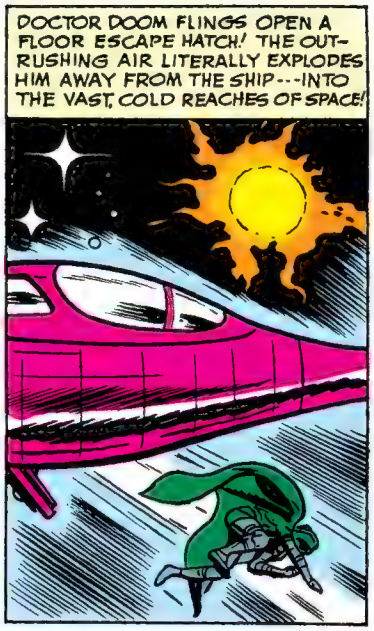
GO!!

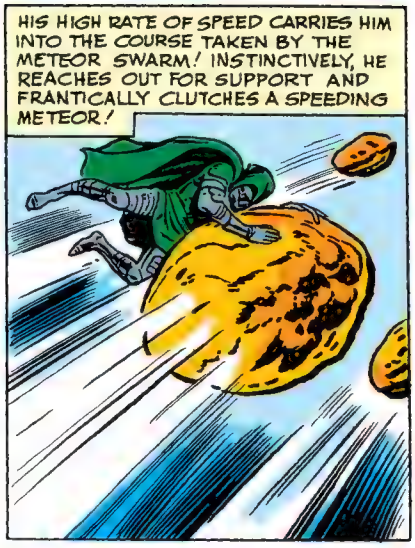

THE FANTASTIC FOUR
PART 5
"THE END...OR THE BEGINNING?"
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
IT WORKED! I WAS ABLE TO LEAP FROM ONE PASSING METEOR TO THE OTHER, UNTIL NOW...
V-835
...NOW FOR THE RECKONING!
BUT SUDDENLY, AT THE FLIP OF A CONTROL LEVER FROM INSIDE THE AMAZING SHIP, AN ALL-POWERFUL BAND OF MAGNETISM PINS PRINCE NAMOR TO THE STEEL HULL OF THE CABIN!
UGH!! CAN'T MOVE!
21.

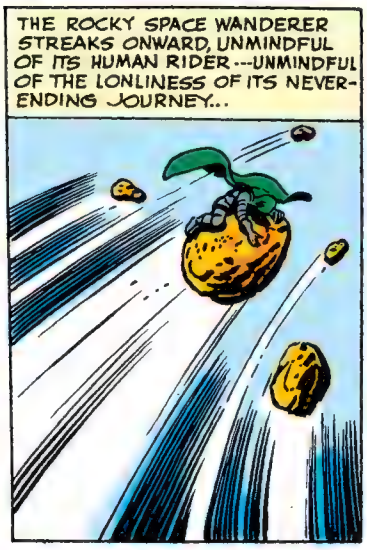

UNABLE TO RISE, SUBMARINER'S POWERFUL FISTS EXERT TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON THE FUSILAGE BENEATH HIM!
THIS MAGNETIC FORCE MAY KEEP ME FROM GETTING UP.. BUT IT CAN'T STOP ME FROM GOING DOWN!
THE THICK METAL BUCKLES AND GROANS... UNTIL SUBMARINER'S ARMS CRASH THROUGH INTO THE SHIP'S INTERIOR!
WHEN THE AIR RUSHES OUT, THE HULL BENEATH SUBMARINER COLLAPSES, AND CARRIES HIM DOWN WITH IT!
NOW IF I CAN ONLY BREAK INTO THE PILOT'S CABIN BEFORE DOCTOR DOOM MAKES HIS NEXT MOVE! I'M SURE HE KNOWS I'M IN THE SHIP!
SUDDENLY, A THOUSAND GREAT HAMMER-BLOWS OF ELECTRICITY SMASH INTO THE SEA MONARCH, HURLING HIM BACK INTO THE DARKNESS.
CRACK
MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STEEL WALL, DOCTOR DOOM LISTENS FOR SOUNDS OF MOVEMENT...
I DON'T HEAR A THING! THAT'S THE END OF SUBMARINER! HIS ATTEMPT TO STOP ME WAS THE LAST!
VOLTS
NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PUSH DOWN THIS LEVER AND BREAK CONTACT WITH THE BUILDING! SLOWLY BUT SURELY IT WILL SPIRAL INTO THE SUN..TAKING WITH IT THE REST OF MY ENEMIES!
OWWW!! I-I CAN'T TOUCH ANYTHING! THE WHOLE CABIN IS CHARGED WITH ELECTRICITY!
22.

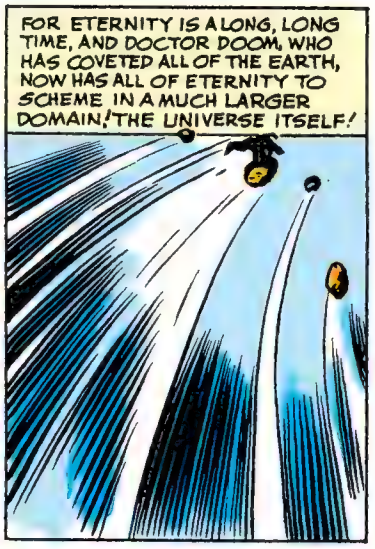

AND HERE'S THE REST OF IT--- FULL BLAST! YOU DIDN'T KILL ME WITH THAT ELECTRIC CHARGE! LIKE AN ELECTRIC EEL, I ABSORBED IT, STORED IT, AND NOW--- I'M RETURNING IT!

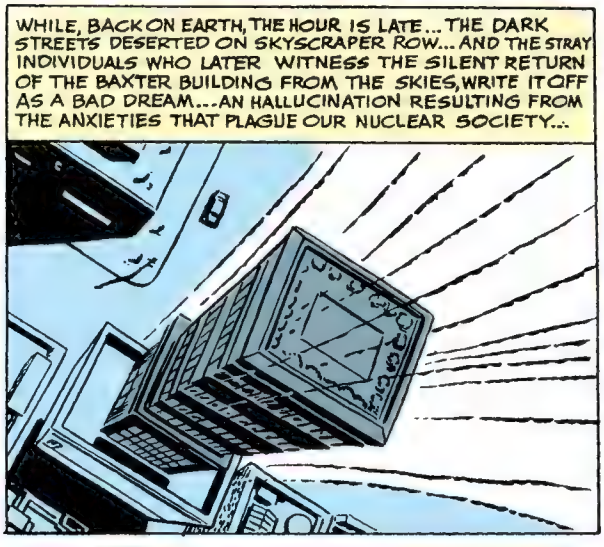

A-AAAAA-AA---GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I...

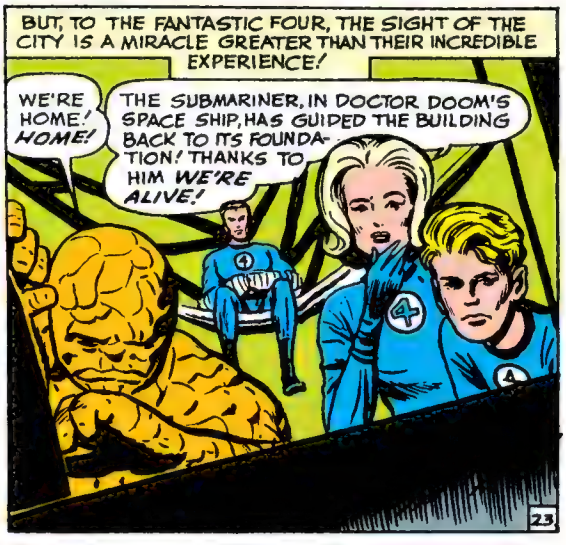

DOCTOR DOOM FLINGS OPEN A FLOOR ESCAPE HATCH! THE OUT-RUSHING AIR LITERALLY EXPLODES HIM AWAY FROM THE SHIP---INTO THE VAST, COLD REACHES OF SPACE!


HIS HIGH RATE OF SPEED CARRIES HIM INTO THE COURSE TAKEN BY THE METEOR SWARM! INSTINCTIVELY, HE REACHES OUT FOR SUPPORT AND FRANTICALLY CLUTCHES A SPEEDING METEOR!


THE ROCKY SPACE WANDERER STREAKS ONWARD, UNMINDFUL OF ITS HUMAN RIDER---UNMINDFUL OF THE LONLINESS OF ITS NEVER-ENDING JOURNEY...


FOR ETERNITY IS A LONG, LONG TIME, AND DOCTOR DOOM, WHO HAS COVETED ALL OF THE EARTH, NOW HAS ALL OF ETERNITY TO SCHEME IN A MUCH LARGER DOMAIN! THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!


WHILE, BACK ON EARTH, THE HOUR IS LATE... THE DARK STREETS DESERTED ON SKYSCRAPER ROW... AND THE STRAY INDIVIDUALS WHO LATER WITNESS THE SILENT RETURN OF THE BAXTER BUILDING FROM THE SKIES, WRITE IT OFF AS A BAD DREAM...AN HALLUCINATION RESULTING FROM THE ANXIETIES THAT PLAGUE OUR NUCLEAR SOCIETY...


BUT, TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE SIGHT OF THE CITY IS A MIRACLE GREATER THAN THEIR INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE!
WE'RE HOME! HOME!
THE SUBMARINER, IN DOCTOR DOOM'S SPACE SHIP, HAS GUIDED THE BUILDING BACK TO ITS FOUNDATION! THANKS TO HIM WE'RE ALIVE!

HOW DO YOU THANK AN ENEMY? SUBMARINER'S SOMEWHERE ABOVE US IN THAT CONFOUNDED SHIP.. ...AND IF I COULD REACH HIM...I STILL DON'T KNOW IF I'D SHAKE HIS HAND OR TRY TO SMASH HIM!
OH, HE ISN'T OUR ENEMY! I JUST KNOW IT! HE'S SO FULL OF PAIN AND BITTERNESS, THAT IT BLINDS HIS BETTER INSTINCTS! SUBMARINER NEEDS TIME... TIME TO HEAL!
AT THAT MOMENT...
I FOUND IT! I FOUND THAT GRABBER GADGET JUST WHERE SUBMARINER SAID HE PLANTED IT!
WE'D BETTER REMOVE IT! IT'S DANGEROUS AS LONG AS IT REMAINS ACTIVE!
YEAH! IT'S LIKE LIVING WITH A LIVE BOMB!
AND SOON AFTER, IN THE BUILDING BASEMENT!
THERE IT IS! CONCEIVED BY DOCTOR DOOM...AND DELIVERED BY A MIS-GUIDED PRINCE NAMOR!
YOU MEAN THAT THING?? THAT THING LIFTED THE ENTIRE BUILDING IT'S NO BIGGER THAN A TINCAN!
UGH! TALK ABOUT POWER! WE CAN'T BUDGE THIS THING!
YOU FORGET THAT IT HARNESSES THE STRENGTH OF A TITANIC NATURAL FORCE!
DOCTOR DOOM WAS AN EVIL GENIUS... BUT A GENIUS, NEVERTHELESS! WHAT A TRAGEDY THAT HIS GREAT MENTAL ABILITIES PRODUCED SUCH MIRACLES FOR SINISTER PURPOSES!
AS FOR SUB-MARINER, WHO KNOWS WHAT HIS FUTURE HOLDS FOR HIM?
LOOK OUT!
IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP IT!
THE GADGET DETACHED ITSELF! IT'S FLYING AWAY!
AS IF POSSESSED BY A WILL OF ITS OWN, THE GRABBER STREAKS ACROSS THE CITY WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT-- UNTIL IT IS LOST TO SIGHT OVER THE OCEAN!
SOMETIME LATER, IN A REMOTE LATITUDE, THE CYLINDER HOMES IN ON THE SPACE SHIP PILOTED BY SUBMARINER...
THEN, WHEN IT IS INSIDE THE SHIP, PRINCE NAMOR SENDS THE VEHICLE INTO A SPIN AND HURTLES FROM IT!
THE SEA WILL MAKE A FIT RESTING PLACE FOR THE WORKS OF DOCTOR DOOM! THEY WILL LIE WHERE THEY CAN DO NO FURTHER HARM!
SO SHALL I RETURN TO THE SEA! PERHAPS SOMEDAY WHEN I AM NO LONGER HAUNTED BY BITTER MEMORIES OF MY LOST PEOPLE, I MAY RETURN...BUT UNTIL THEN, THIS IS WHERE I BELONG! IN THE SEA WHICH IS MY HOME!
NEXT ISSUE! DON'T MISS THE MOST STARTLING FANTASTIC FOUR ADVENTURE OF ALL! WATCH FOR IT!!
24

- THE END -

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IND.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

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THE Fantastic Four

MC

7 OCT.

WHY DOES THE HUMAN RACE TURN AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR?? ONLY "THE MASTER OF PLANET X" KNOWS THE ANSWER!!

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE

MISTER FANTASTIC

HUMAN TORCH

THE THING

INVISIBLE GIRL

WE ESCAPED JUST IN TIME! WE CAN'T REMAIN ON EARTH ANY LONGER! WE'VE GOT TO HEAD FOR PLANET X!!

DOWN WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!

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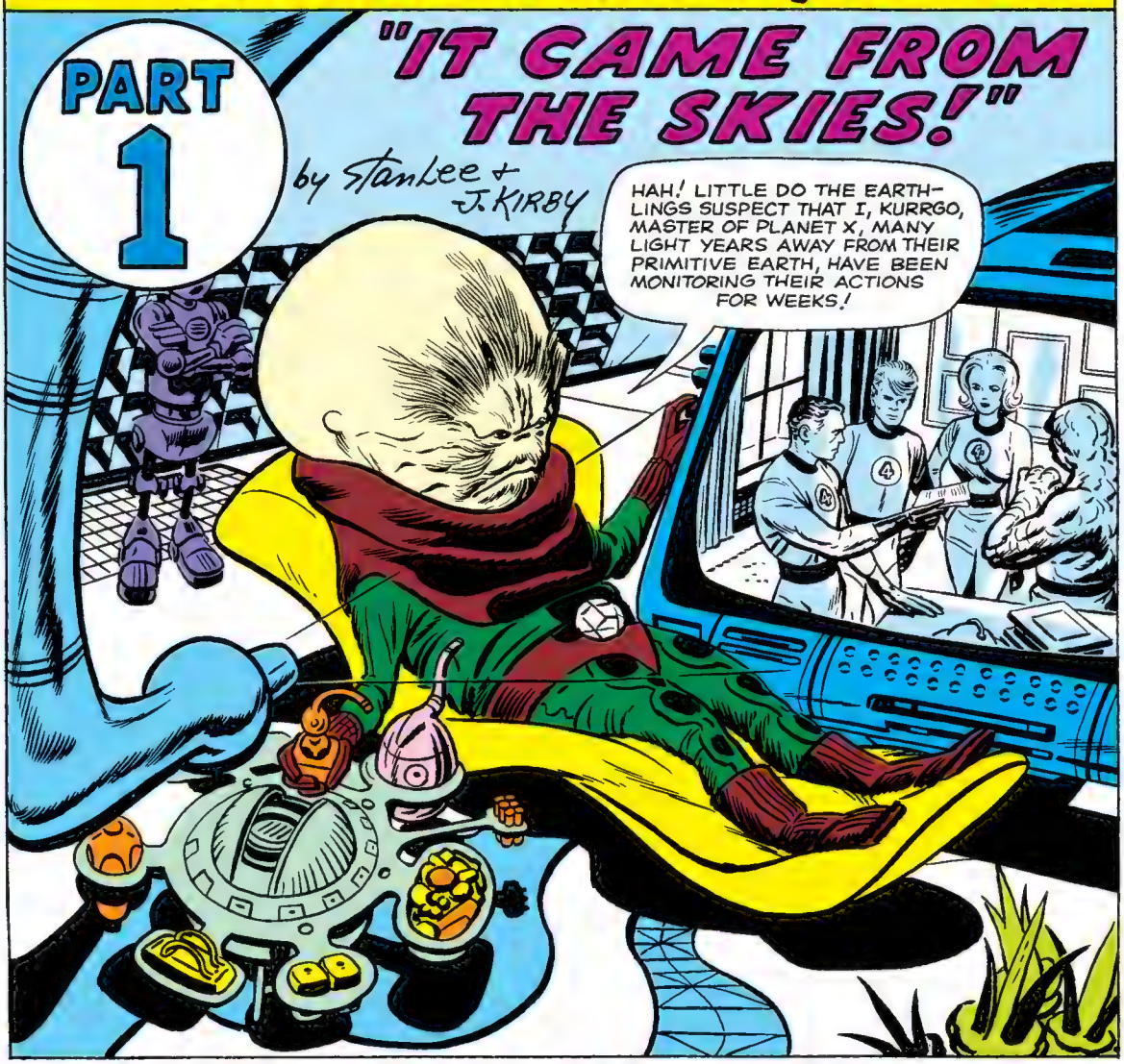
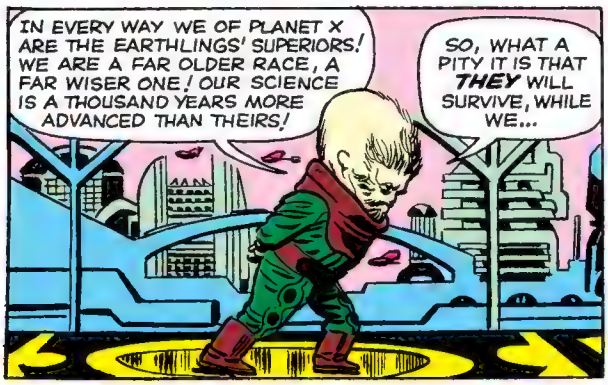
THE FANTASTIC FOUR in PRISONERS OF KURRGO, MASTER OF PLANET X

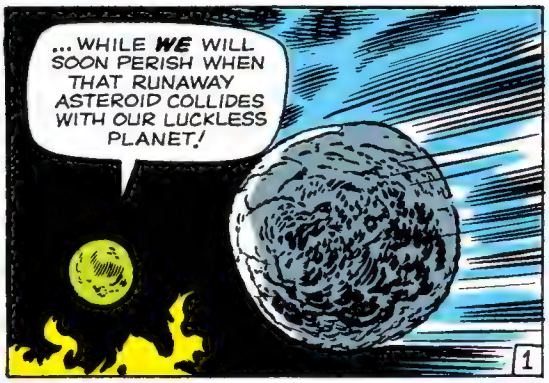
PART 1

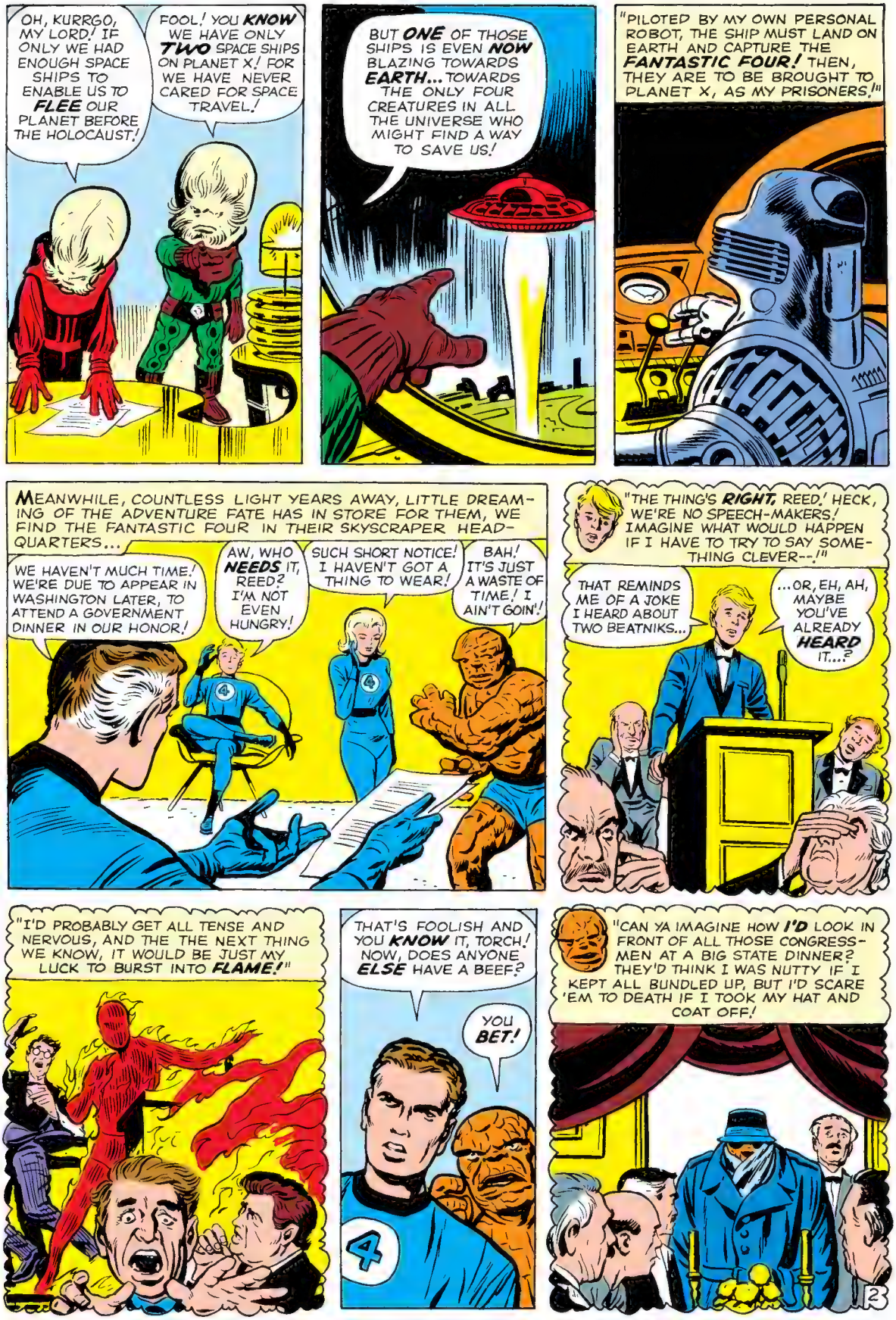
"IT CAME FROM THE SKIES!"

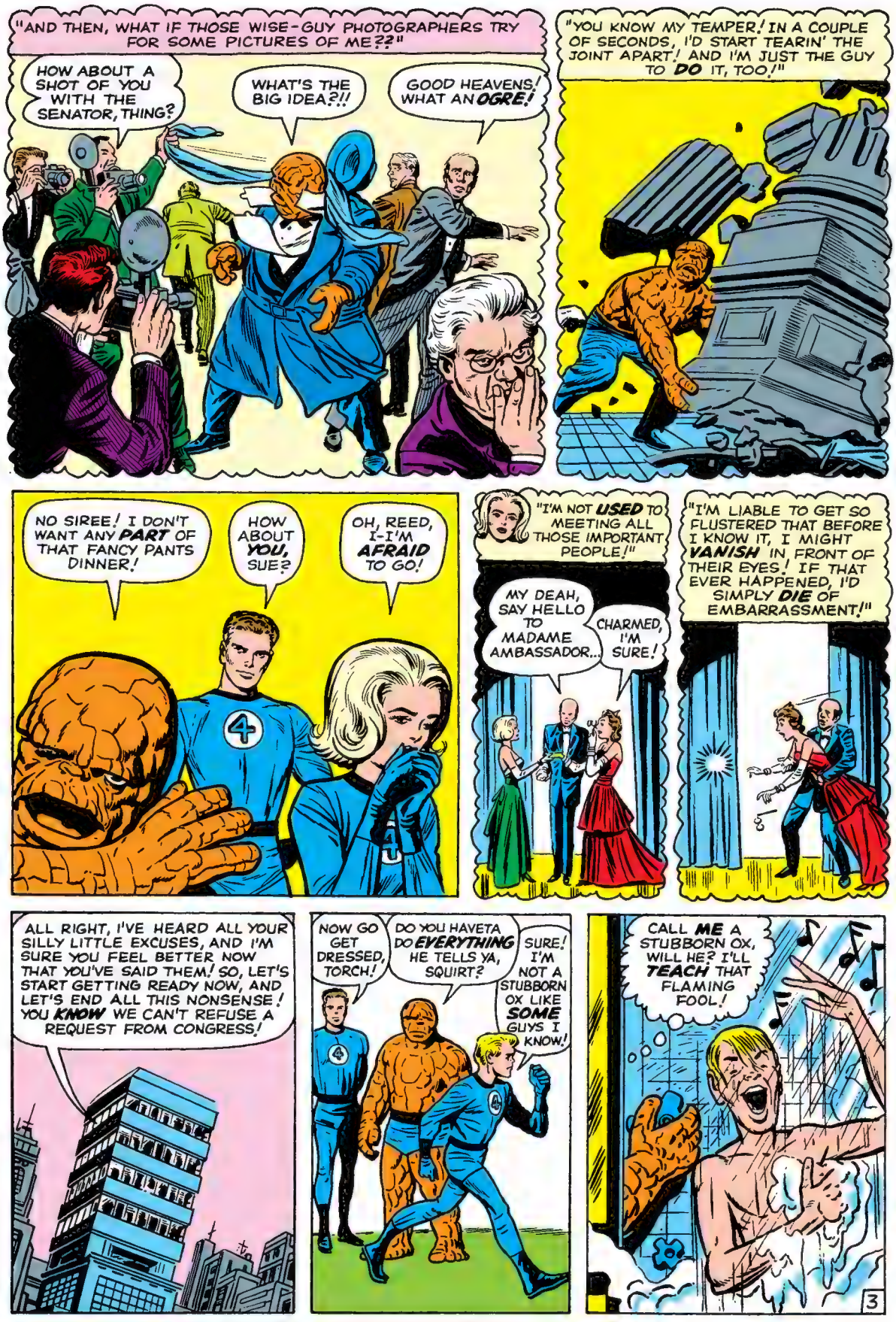
by Stan Lee & J. Kirby

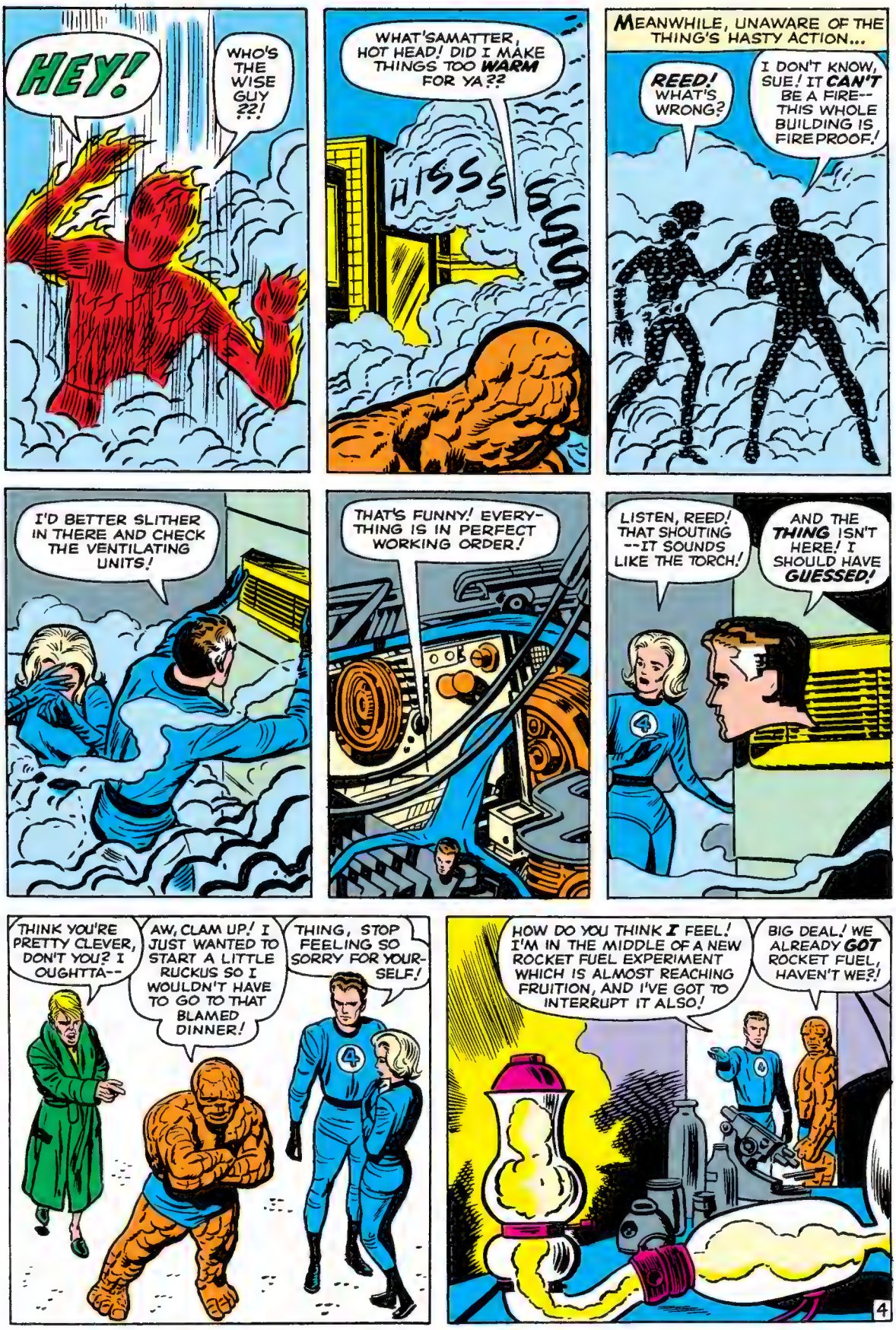

HAH! LITTLE DO THE EARTHLINGS SUSPECT THAT I, KURRGO, MASTER OF PLANET X, MANY LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM THEIR PRIMITIVE EARTH, HAVE BEEN MONITORING THEIR ACTIONS FOR WEEKS!


IN EVERY WAY WE OF PLANET X ARE THE EARTHLINGS' SUPERIORS! WE ARE A FAR OLDER RACE, A FAR WISER ONE! OUR SCIENCE IS A THOUSAND YEARS MORE ADVANCED THAN THEIRS!
SO, WHAT A PITY IT IS THAT THEY WILL SURVIVE, WHILE WE...




OH, KURRGO, MY LORD! IF ONLY WE HAD ENOUGH SPACE SHIPS TO ENABLE US TO FLEE OUR PLANET BEFORE THE HOLOCAUST!
FOOL! YOU KNOW WE HAVE ONLY TWO SPACE SHIPS ON PLANET X! FOR WE HAVE NEVER CARED FOR SPACE TRAVEL!
BUT ONE OF THOSE SHIPS IS EVEN NOW BLAZING TOWARDS EARTH... TOWARDS THE ONLY FOUR CREATURES IN ALL THE UNIVERSE WHO MIGHT FIND A WAY TO SAVE US!
"PILOTED BY MY OWN PERSONAL ROBOT, THE SHIP MUST LAND ON EARTH AND CAPTURE THE FANTASTIC FOUR! THEN, THEY ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO PLANET X, AS MY PRISONERS!"
MEANWHILE, COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS AWAY, LITTLE DREAMING OF THE ADVENTURE FATE HAS IN STORE FOR THEM, WE FIND THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN THEIR SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS...
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME! WE'RE DUE TO APPEAR IN WASHINGTON LATER, TO ATTEND A GOVERNMENT DINNER IN OUR HONOR!
AW, WHO NEEDS IT, REED? I'M NOT EVEN HUNGRY!
SUCH SHORT NOTICE! I HAVEN'T GOT A THING TO WEAR!
BAH! IT'S JUST A WASTE OF TIME! I AIN'T GOIN'!
"THE THING'S RIGHT, REED! HECK, WE'RE NO SPEECH-MAKERS! IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I HAVE TO TRY TO SAY SOMETHING CLEVER--!"
THAT REMINDS ME OF A JOKE I HEARD ABOUT TWO BEATNIKS...
...OR, EH, AH, MAYBE YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD IT...?
"I'D PROBABLY GET ALL TENSE AND NERVOUS, AND THE THE NEXT THING WE KNOW, IT WOULD BE JUST MY LUCK TO BURST INTO FLAME!"
THAT'S FOOLISH AND YOU KNOW IT, TORCH! NOW, DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE A BEEF?
YOU BET!
"CAN YA IMAGINE HOW I'D LOOK IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE CONGRESSMEN AT A BIG STATE DINNER? THEY'D THINK I WAS NUTTY IF I KEPT ALL BUNDLED UP, BUT I'D SCARE 'EM TO DEATH IF I TOOK MY HAT AND COAT OFF!
13


"AND THEN, WHAT IF THOSE WISE-GUY PHOTOGRAPHERS TRY FOR SOME PICTURES OF ME??"
HOW ABOUT A SHOT OF YOU WITH THE SENATOR, THING?
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!!
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT AN OGRE!
"YOU KNOW MY TEMPER! IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS, I'D START TEARIN' THE JOINT APART! AND I'M JUST THE GUY TO DO IT, TOO!"
NO SIREE! I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THAT FANCY PANTS DINNER!
HOW ABOUT YOU, SUE?
OH, REED, I-I'M AFRAID TO GO!
"I'M NOT USED TO MEETING ALL THOSE IMPORTANT PEOPLE!"
MY DEAH, SAY HELLO TO MADAME AMBASSADOR...
CHARMED, I'M SURE!
"I'M LIABLE TO GET SO FLUSTERED THAT BEFORE I KNOW IT, I MIGHT VANISH IN FRONT OF THEIR EYES! IF THAT EVER HAPPENED, I'D SIMPLY DIE OF EMBARRASSMENT!"
ALL RIGHT, I'VE HEARD ALL YOUR SILLY LITTLE EXCUSES, AND I'M SURE YOU FEEL BETTER NOW THAT YOU'VE SAID THEM! SO, LET'S START GETTING READY NOW, AND LET'S END ALL THIS NONSENSE! YOU KNOW WE CAN'T REFUSE A REQUEST FROM CONGRESS!
NOW GO GET DRESSED, TORCH!
DO YOU HAVETA DO EVERYTHING HE TELLS YA, SQUIRT?
SURE! I'M NOT A STUBBORN OX LIKE SOME GUYS I KNOW!
CALL ME A STUBBORN OX, WILL HE? I'LL TEACH THAT FLAMING FOOL!
3


HEY!
WHO'S THE WISE GUY ??!
WHAT'SAMATTER, HOT HEAD! DID I MAKE THINGS TOO WARM FOR YA??
HISSSSSSS
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE THING'S HASTY ACTION...
REED! WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T KNOW, SUE! IT CAN'T BE A FIRE-- THIS WHOLE BUILDING IS FIREPROOF!
I'D BETTER SLITHER IN THERE AND CHECK THE VENTILATING UNITS!
THAT'S FUNNY! EVERY-THING IS IN PERFECT WORKING ORDER!
LISTEN, REED! THAT SHOUTING --IT SOUNDS LIKE THE TORCH!
AND THE THING ISN'T HERE! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
THINK YOU'RE PRETTY CLEVER, DON'T YOU? I OUGHTTA--
AW, CLAM UP! I JUST WANTED TO START A LITTLE RUCKUS SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO TO THAT BLAMED DINNER!
THING, STOP FEELING SO SORRY FOR YOUR-SELF!
HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL! I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A NEW ROCKET FUEL EXPERIMENT WHICH IS ALMOST REACHING FRUITION, AND I'VE GOT TO INTERRUPT IT ALSO!
BIG DEAL! WE ALREADY GOT ROCKET FUEL, HAVEN'T WE?!
4

BUT LET US LEAVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR TO THEIR BICKERING FOR A MOMENT AND WATCH A NEW, STRANGE FORM ENTER EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE! THE FORM OF A STAR SHIP FROM OUTER SPACE! AND, AT THE VERY INSTANT THAT **WE** NOTICE IT, ONE OF AMERICA'S NEW EYE-IN-THE-SKY SATELLITES ALSO FLASHES THE WORD TO COMMAND HEADQUARTERS BELOW...

WHAT **IS** IT?? AN ATTACK BY THE REDS?

NO EARTH NATION EVER BUILT A A SHIP LIKE **THAT!**

IT--IT SOUNDS INCREDIBLE --BUT IT CAN **ONLY** COME FROM-- **OUTER SPACE!**

MINUTES LATER, ATOP A NEW YORK SKYSCRAPER...

C'MON, THING, CHEER UP! YOU MIGHT EVEN **ENJOY** THE DINNER!

SURE--SURE! I JUST **LOVE** TO HAVE PEOPLE GAPIN' AT ME AND LAUGHIN' BEHIND MY BACK!

HEY! WHAT'S **THAT?**

IT'S SOMETHING IN THE SKY!

SOUNDS LIKE A NEW TYPE OF JET!

WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!

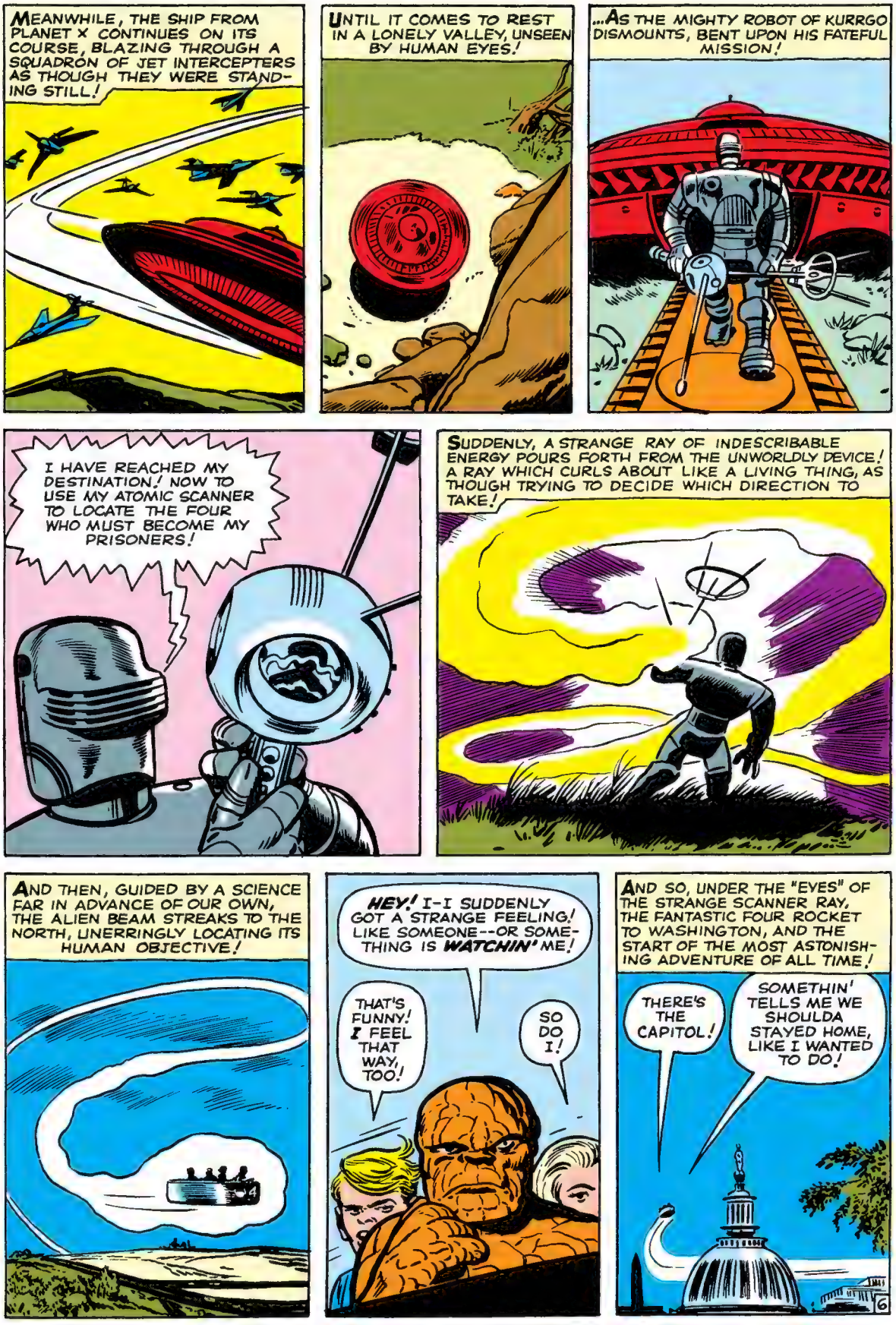
OVER **THERE!** WOW! LOOK AT 'ER GO! MUST BE A NEW **MISSILE** TEST!

WELL, WE'VE GOT NO TIME FOR RUBBERNECKING! WE'RE DUE IN WASHINGTON NOW!

WE'VE GOT AN **AUDIENCE** BELOW!

I'D LIKE TO TRADE PLACES WITH 'EM! **THEY** DON'T HAVE TO GO TO A DULL DINNER!

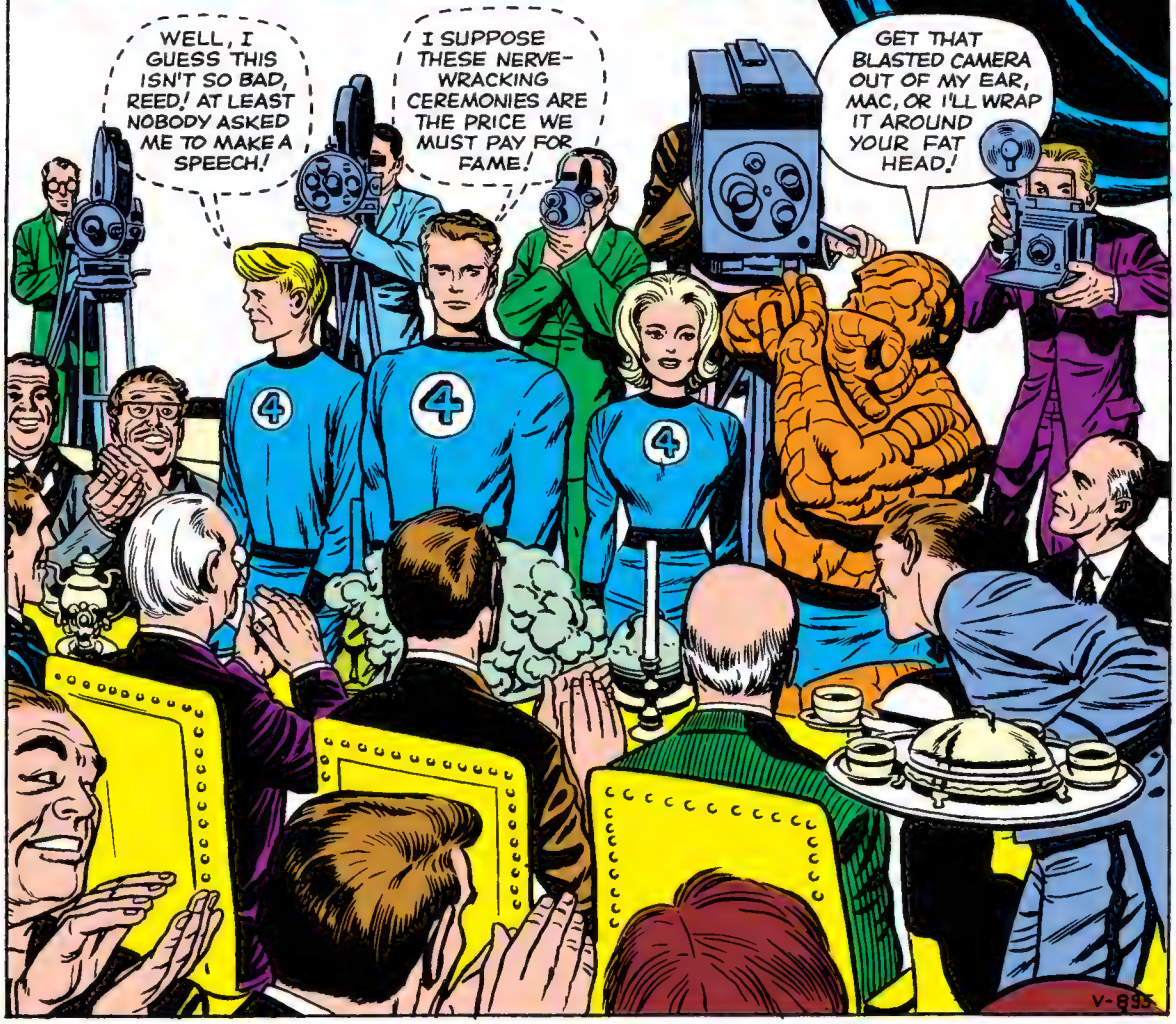
LOOK! IT'S THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN THEIR **FANTASTI-CAR!**


MEANWHILE, THE SHIP FROM PLANET X CONTINUES ON ITS COURSE, BLAZING THROUGH A SQUADRON OF JET INTERCEPTERS AS THOUGH THEY WERE STANDING STILL!
UNTIL IT COMES TO REST IN A LONELY VALLEY, UNSEEN BY HUMAN EYES!
...AS THE MIGHTY ROBOT OF KURRGO DISMOUNTS, BENT UPON HIS FATEFUL MISSION!
I HAVE REACHED MY DESTINATION! NOW TO USE MY ATOMIC SCANNER TO LOCATE THE FOUR WHO MUST BECOME MY PRISONERS!
SUDDENLY, A STRANGE RAY OF INDESCRIBABLE ENERGY POURS FORTH FROM THE UNWORLDLY DEVICE! A RAY WHICH CURLS ABOUT LIKE A LIVING THING, AS THOUGH TRYING TO DECIDE WHICH DIRECTION TO TAKE!
AND THEN, GUIDED BY A SCIENCE FAR IN ADVANCE OF OUR OWN, THE ALIEN BEAM STREAKS TO THE NORTH, UNERRINGLY LOCATING ITS HUMAN OBJECTIVE!
HEY! I-I SUDDENLY GOT A STRANGE FEELING! LIKE SOMEONE--OR SOMETHING IS WATCHIN' ME!
THAT'S FUNNY! I FEEL THAT WAY, TOO!
SO DO I!
AND SO, UNDER THE "EYES" OF THE STRANGE SCANNER RAY, THE FANTASTIC FOUR ROCKET TO WASHINGTON, AND THE START OF THE MOST ASTONISHING ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME!
THERE'S THE CAPITOL!
SOMETHIN' TELLS ME WE SHOULDA STAYED HOME, LIKE I WANTED TO DO!
6

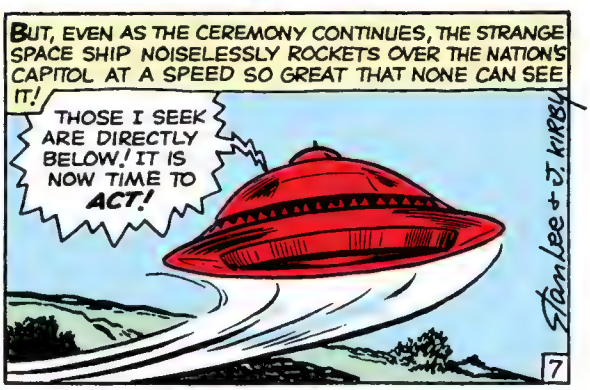
THE FANTASTIC FOUR

PART 2

OUTLAWED!


WELL, I GUESS THIS ISN'T SO BAD, REED! AT LEAST NOBODY ASKED ME TO MAKE A SPEECH!
I SUPPOSE THESE NERVE-WRACKING CEREMONIES ARE THE PRICE WE MUST PAY FOR FAME!
GET THAT BLASTED CAMERA OUT OF MY EAR, MAC, OR I'LL WRAP IT AROUND YOUR FAT HEAD!
V-895

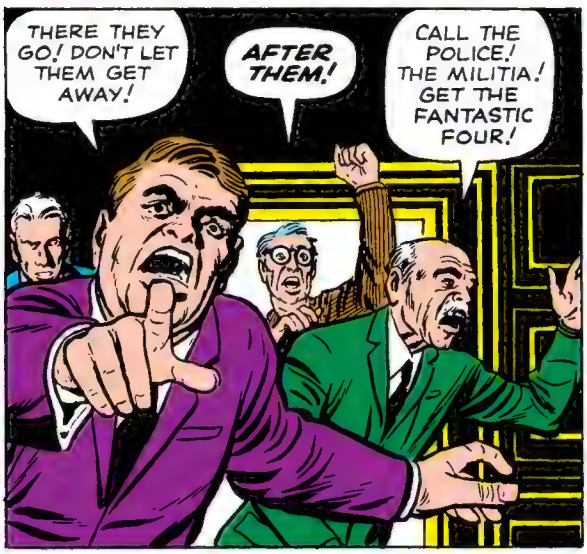
MR. FANTASTIC, AS LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS TROPHY AS A SYMBOL OF THE GRATITUDE OF YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN?
WE ARE HONORED, SIR!


BUT, EVEN AS THE CEREMONY CONTINUES, THE STRANGE SPACE SHIP NOISELESSLY ROCKETS OVER THE NATION'S CAPITOL AT A SPEED SO GREAT THAT NONE CAN SEE IT!
THOSE I SEEK ARE DIRECTLY BELOW! IT IS NOW TIME TO ACT!
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
7

MY MASTER, THE MIGHTY KURRGO, ORDERED ME TO ACTIVATE THE HOSTILITY RAY AS I FLY OVER MY QUARRY! AND SO...
RREEEEEEEEE
SUDDENLY, FROM THE UNEARTHLY STAR SHIP, A STRANGE, PIERCING HUM ISSUES FORTH, BLANKETING THE CITY WITH ITS EERIE VIBRATIONS!
HHMMMMMMMMMMM
NO PLACE IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL IS SAFE FROM THE SUBSONIC HUM...
HERE'S YOUR DINNER, DARLING!
MMMMM
THANKS, HONEY!
MMMMMMMMM
DON'T YOU "HONEY" ME, YOU CREEP!
EVERYWHERE IN THE CITY, THE STORY IS THE SAME...
HERE, SIR--LET ME HELP YOU UP!
THANK YOU, YOUNG MAN! YOU'RE VERY KIND!
MMMMMMMMM
TAKE YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME, YOU CRUMMY BUM!
AND, AT THE TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
...AND NOW, I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW FINAL WORDS IN PRAISE OF THIS WONDERFUL PATRIOTIC FOURSOME TO WHOM OUR NATION OWES SO MUCH!
POUR IT ON, BUB! WE CAN STAND IT AS LONG AS YOU CAN!
MMMMMMMM....
IT'S TIME THE PUBLIC AWOKE TO THE FACT THAT THE FOUR OF YOU ARE THE WORST MENACES EVER TO THREATEN THIS LAND!
!
8

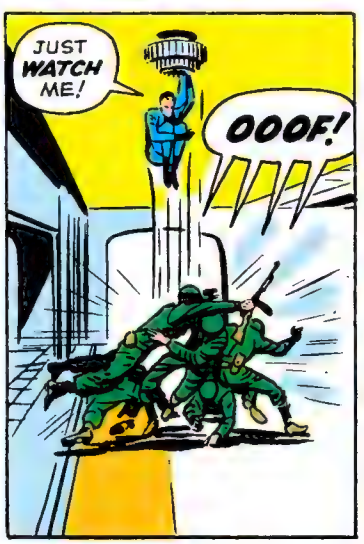
SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE ASTONISHED FOURSOME KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE ADMIRING CROWD OF WELL-WISHERS TURNS INTO A SAVAGE, HATE-FILLED RIOTING MOB!
DOWN WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
DRIVE THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY!
EVERYONE'S GONE MAD!

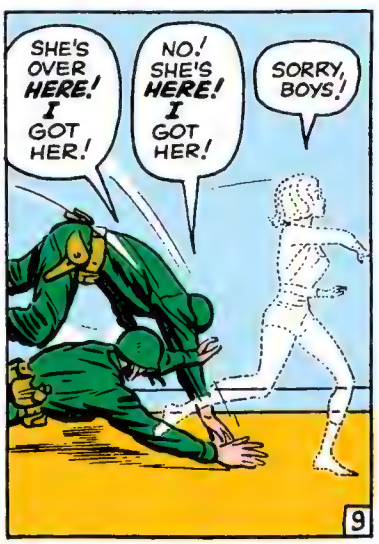
REED! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED ??
I DON'T KNOW, KID! BUT UNTIL WE FIND OUT, WE'VE GOT TO RUN FOR SAFETY!
THEY ACTED AS THOUGH THEY WANTED TO DESTROY US!
I AIN'T MUCH GOOD AT HAND-SHAKES, BUT FIGHTIN'! THAT'S SOMETHIN' I CAN UNDER-STAND!

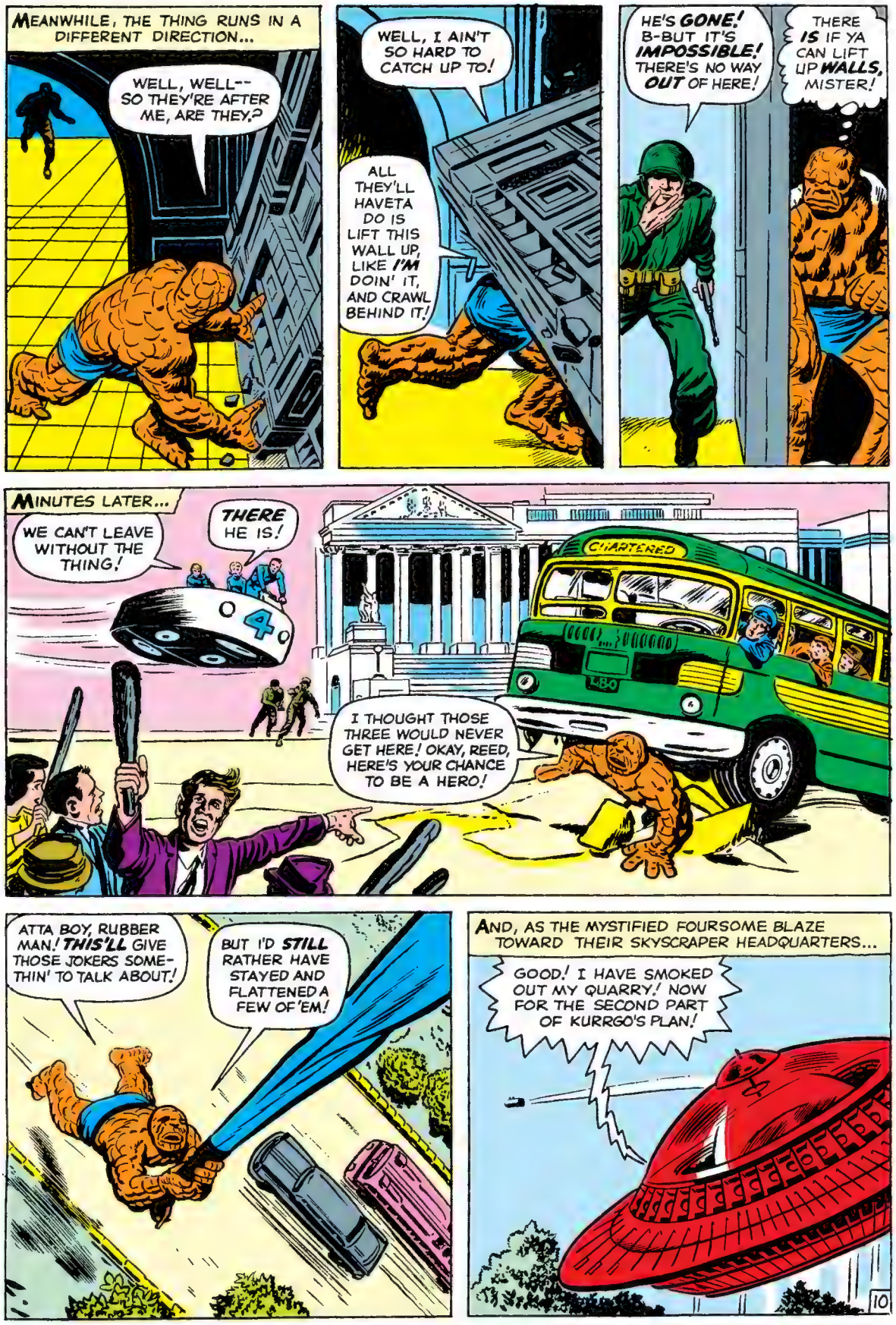

THERE THEY GO! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
AFTER THEM!
CALL THE POLICE! THE MILITIA! GET THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

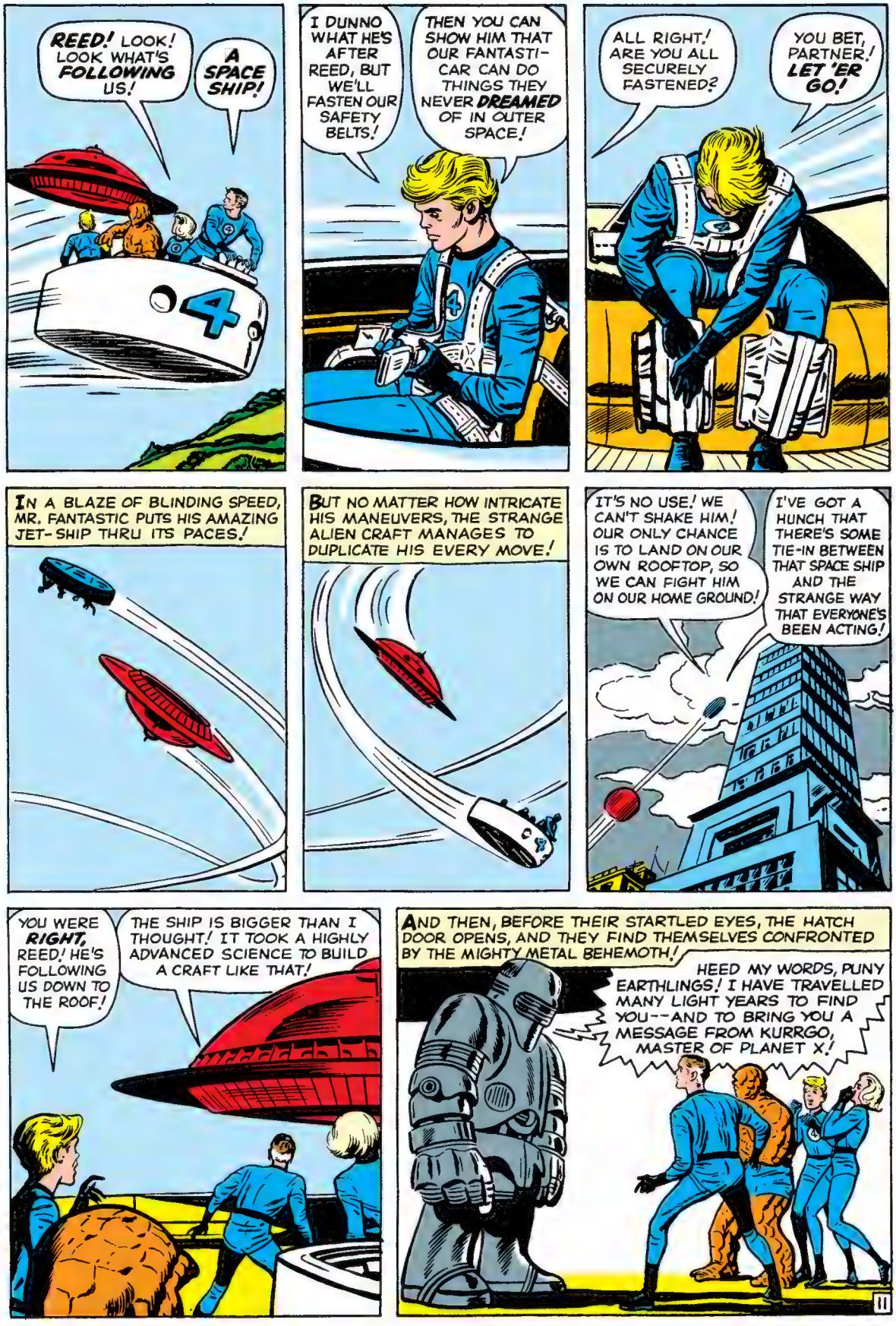
FLAME ON!
EASY, BOYS! I DON'T WANNA HURT ANY-BODY, BUT LET US PASS OR ELSE IT'S GONNA GET AWFUL HOT AROUND HERE!
WE CAN'T TACKLE HIM WITH-OUT ASBESTOS SUITS!

WE'RE SURROUNDED! QUICK, SUE--TURN INVISIBLE WHILE I KEEP THE TROOPS BUSY!
BUT HOW WILL YOU GET AWAY, REED??

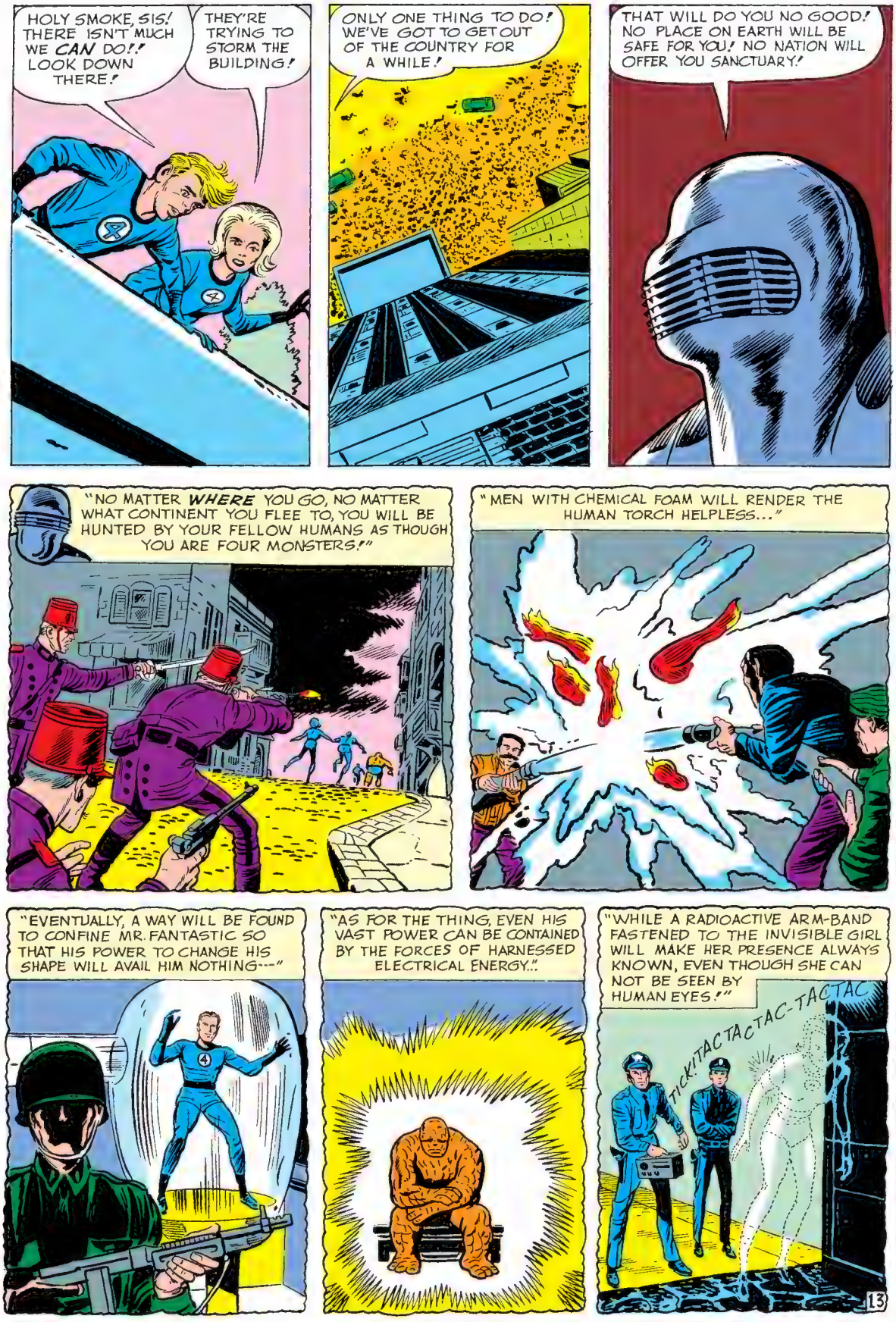

JUST WATCH ME!
OOOF!

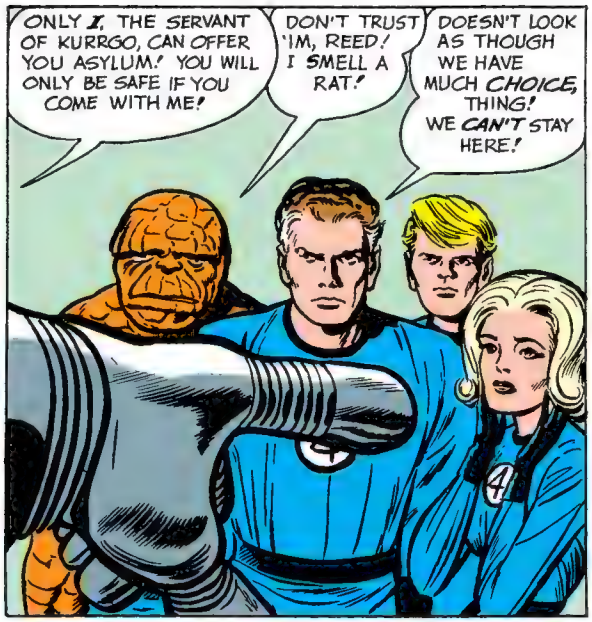

SHE'S OVER HERE! I GOT HER!
NO! SHE'S HERE! I GOT HER!
SORRY, BOYS!

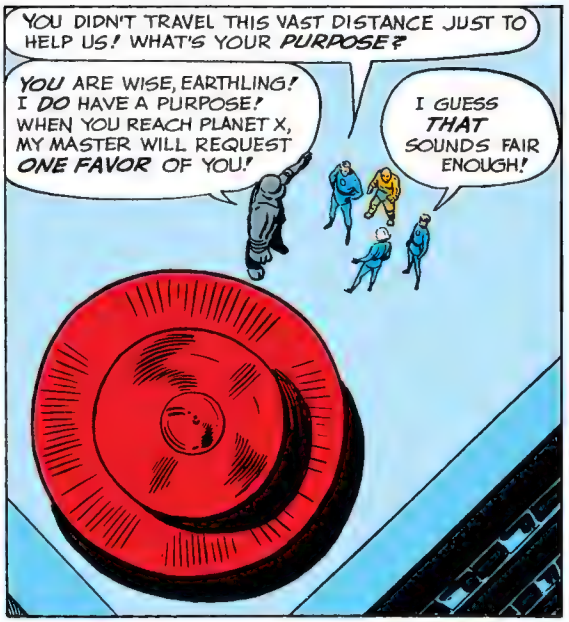

MEANWHILE, THE THING RUNS IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION...
WELL, WELL-- SO THEY'RE AFTER ME, ARE THEY?
WELL, I AIN'T SO HARD TO CATCH UP TO!
ALL THEY'LL HAVETA DO IS LIFT THIS WALL UP, LIKE I'M DOIN' IT, AND CRAWL BEHIND IT!
HE'S GONE! B-BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF HERE!
THERE IS IF YA CAN LIFT UP WALLS, MISTER!
MINUTES LATER...
WE CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THE THING!
THERE HE IS!
CHARTERED
I THOUGHT THOSE THREE WOULD NEVER GET HERE! OKAY, REED, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A HERO!
ATTA BOY, RUBBER MAN! THIS'LL GIVE THOSE JOKERS SOMETHIN' TO TALK ABOUT!
BUT I'D STILL RATHER HAVE STAYED AND FLATTENED A FEW OF 'EM!
AND, AS THE MYSTIFIED FOURSOME BLAZE TOWARD THEIR SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS...
GOOD! I HAVE SMOKED OUT MY QUARRY! NOW FOR THE SECOND PART OF KURRGO'S PLAN!
10

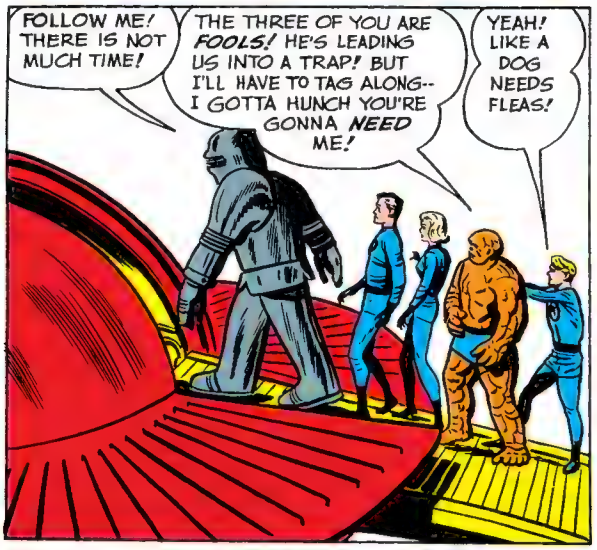

REED! LOOK! LOOK WHAT'S FOLLOWING US!
A SPACE SHIP!
I DUNNO WHAT HE'S AFTER REED, BUT WE'LL FASTEN OUR SAFETY BELTS!
THEN YOU CAN SHOW HIM THAT OUR FANTASTI-CAR CAN DO THINGS THEY NEVER DREAMED OF IN OUTER SPACE!
ALL RIGHT! ARE YOU ALL SECURELY FASTENED?
YOU BET, PARTNER! LET 'ER GO!
IN A BLAZE OF BLINDING SPEED, MR. FANTASTIC PUTS HIS AMAZING JET-SHIP THRU ITS PACES!
BUT NO MATTER HOW INTRICATE HIS MANEUVERS, THE STRANGE ALIEN CRAFT MANAGES TO DUPLICATE HIS EVERY MOVE!
IT'S NO USE! WE CAN'T SHAKE HIM! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO LAND ON OUR OWN ROOFTOP, SO WE CAN FIGHT HIM ON OUR HOME GROUND!
I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT THERE'S SOME TIE-IN BETWEEN THAT SPACE SHIP AND THE STRANGE WAY THAT EVERYONE'S BEEN ACTING!
YOU WERE RIGHT, REED! HE'S FOLLOWING US DOWN TO THE ROOF!
THE SHIP IS BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT! IT TOOK A HIGHLY ADVANCED SCIENCE TO BUILD A CRAFT LIKE THAT!
AND THEN, BEFORE THEIR STARTLED EYES, THE HATCH DOOR OPENS, AND THEY FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED BY THE MIGHTY METAL BEHEMOTH!
HEED MY WORDS, PUNY EARTHLINGS! I HAVE TRAVELLED MANY LIGHT YEARS TO FIND YOU--AND TO BRING YOU A MESSAGE FROM KURRGO, MASTER OF PLANET X!
11

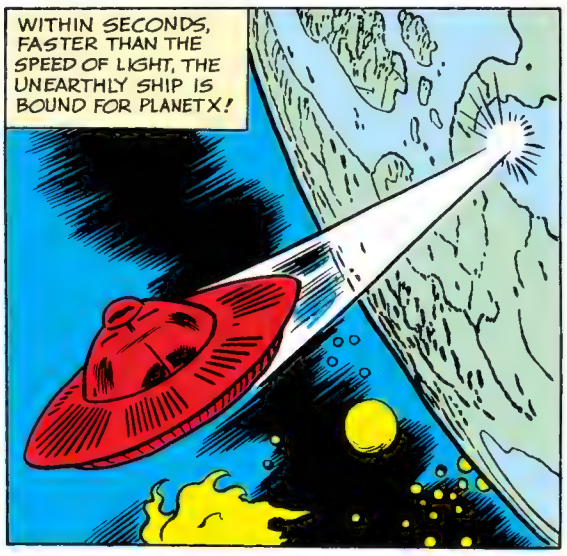
THE FANTASTIC FOUR in
PART 3
"BOUND FOR PLANET X!"
BEHOLD! THIS IS A SCENE ON YOUR EARTH STREET! OBSERVE HOW THE CROWDS ARE RIOTING! IT IS YOU THEY WOULD SEIZE!
REED! THIS IS NO TIME TO STUDY NEW GADGETS! WHAT MADE SOCIETY SUDDENLY TURN AGAINST US?? AND WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT!??
A PORTABLE SELF-CONTAINED TV RECEIVER! AMAZING!!
STAN LEE & J. KIRBY
12

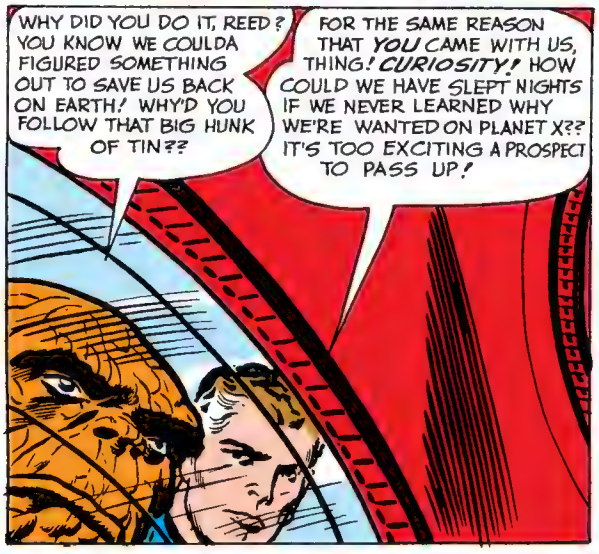

HOLY SMOKE, SIS! THERE ISN'T MUCH WE CAN DO!! LOOK DOWN THERE!
THEY'RE TRYING TO STORM THE BUILDING!
ONLY ONE THING TO DO! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR A WHILE!
THAT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD! NO PLACE ON EARTH WILL BE SAFE FOR YOU! NO NATION WILL OFFER YOU SANCTUARY!
"NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, NO MATTER WHAT CONTINENT YOU FLEE TO, YOU WILL BE HUNTED BY YOUR FELLOW HUMANS AS THOUGH YOU ARE FOUR MONSTERS!"
"MEN WITH CHEMICAL FOAM WILL RENDER THE HUMAN TORCH HELPLESS..."
"EVENTUALLY, A WAY WILL BE FOUND TO CONFINE MR. FANTASTIC SO THAT HIS POWER TO CHANGE HIS SHAPE WILL AVAIL HIM NOTHING---"
"AS FOR THE THING, EVEN HIS VAST POWER CAN BE CONTAINED BY THE FORCES OF HARNESSED ELECTRICAL ENERGY!"
"WHILE A RADIOACTIVE ARM-BAND FASTENED TO THE INVISIBLE GIRL WILL MAKE HER PRESENCE ALWAYS KNOWN, EVEN THOUGH SHE CAN NOT BE SEEN BY HUMAN EYES!"
TIC-TAC-TAC-TAC-TAC-TAC
13

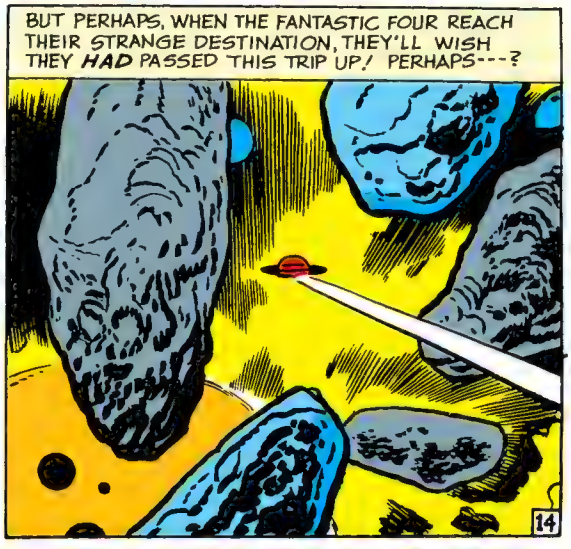

ONLY I, THE SERVANT OF KURRGO, CAN OFFER YOU ASYLUM! YOU WILL ONLY BE SAFE IF YOU COME WITH ME!
DON'T TRUST 'IM, REED! I SMELL A RAT!
DOESN'T LOOK AS THOUGH WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE, THING! WE CAN'T STAY HERE!


YOU DIDN'T TRAVEL THIS VAST DISTANCE JUST TO HELP US! WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?
YOU ARE WISE, EARTHLING! I DO HAVE A PURPOSE! WHEN YOU REACH PLANET X, MY MASTER WILL REQUEST ONE FAVOR OF YOU!
I GUESS THAT SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH!

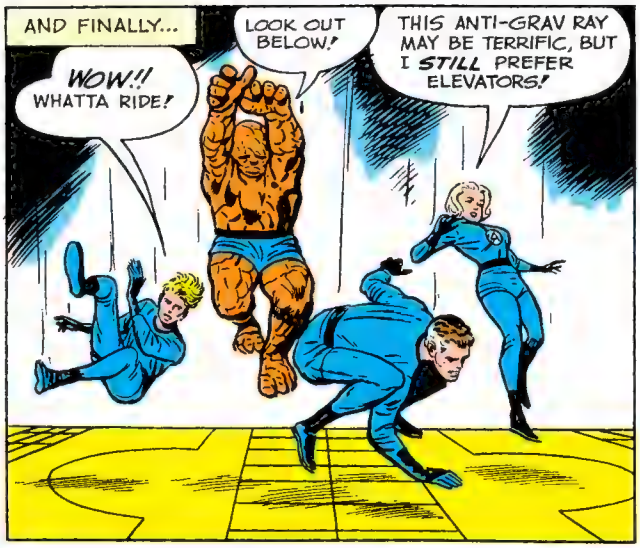

FOLLOW ME! THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME!
THE THREE OF YOU ARE FOOLS! HE'S LEADING US INTO A TRAP! BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAG ALONG-- I GOTTA HUNCH YOU'RE GONNA NEED ME!
YEAH! LIKE A DOG NEEDS FLEAS!


WITHIN SECONDS, FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE UNEARTHLY SHIP IS BOUND FOR PLANET X!


WHY DID YOU DO IT, REED? YOU KNOW WE COULDA FIGURED SOMETHING OUT TO SAVE US BACK ON EARTH! WHY'D YOU FOLLOW THAT BIG HUNK OF TIN??
FOR THE SAME REASON THAT YOU CAME WITH US, THING! CURIOSITY! HOW COULD WE HAVE SLEPT NIGHTS IF WE NEVER LEARNED WHY WE'RE WANTED ON PLANET X?? IT'S TOO EXCITING A PROSPECT TO PASS UP!

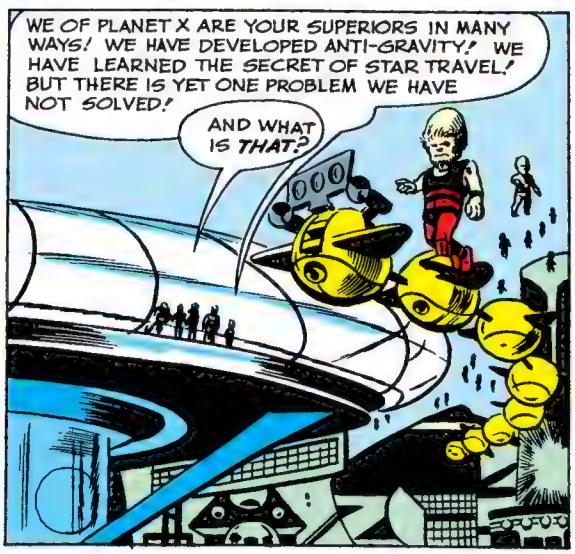

BUT PERHAPS, WHEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR REACH THEIR STRANGE DESTINATION, THEY'LL WISH THEY HAD PASSED THIS TRIP UP! PERHAPS---?

THE FANTASTIC FOUR in
PART 4
"TWENTY FOUR HOURS TILL ZERO!"
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
FINALLY, AFTER HOURS OF VOYAGING THRU SPACE, THE WHIRLING STARSHIP REACHES PLANET X! THEN, A HATCH SLOWLY OPENS AND BEFORE THEY KNOW IT, THE FANTASTIC QUARTET FIND THEMSELVES FLOATING TOWARDS THE SURFACE... DESCENDING GENTLY ON AN INVISIBLE BEAM OF ANTI-GRAVITY MATTER!
15


AND FINALLY...
WOW!! WHATTA RIDE!
LOOK OUT BELOW!
THIS ANTI-GRAV RAY MAY BE TERRIFIC, BUT I STILL PREFER ELEVATORS!

MY MISSION IS ENDED, MASTER! I HAVE BROUGHT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
GOOD!

SO THAT'S KURRGO, THE MASTER OF PLANET X, EH? PUNY-LOOKIN' SHRIMP, AIN'T HE?
QUIET, THING! WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED US TO YOUR PLANET, KURRGO?
YOU SHALL LEARN THE ANSWER SOON ENOUGH, EARTHLING!


WE OF PLANET X ARE YOUR SUPERIORS IN MANY WAYS! WE HAVE DEVELOPED ANTI-GRAVITY! WE HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF STAR TRAVEL! BUT THERE IS YET ONE PROBLEM WE HAVE NOT SOLVED!
AND WHAT IS THAT?

"THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO SAVE OUR PLANET FROM TOTAL DE-STRUCTION! ALREADY, IN THE COASTLANDS, THE TIDES GROW UNCONTROLLABLY HIGH!"

"THRU OUT OUR PLANET THE LAND IS IN A STATE OF UPHEAVAL, AS VOLCANOS AND ERUPTIONS THREATEN OUR ENTIRE POPULATION!

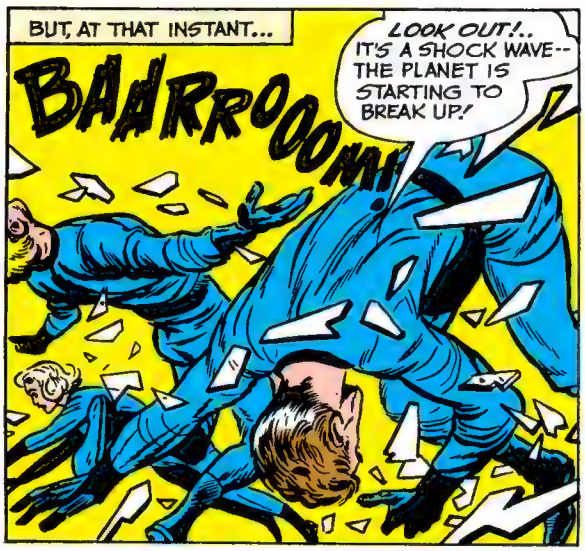
"DRIVEN BY FEAR AND PANIC, OUR PEOPLE ARE TURNING AGAINST EACH OTHER! SOON, NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO STOP THE RIOTS.. ...NOTHING EXCEPT THE DOOM WHICH IS HURTLING TOWARDS US!"

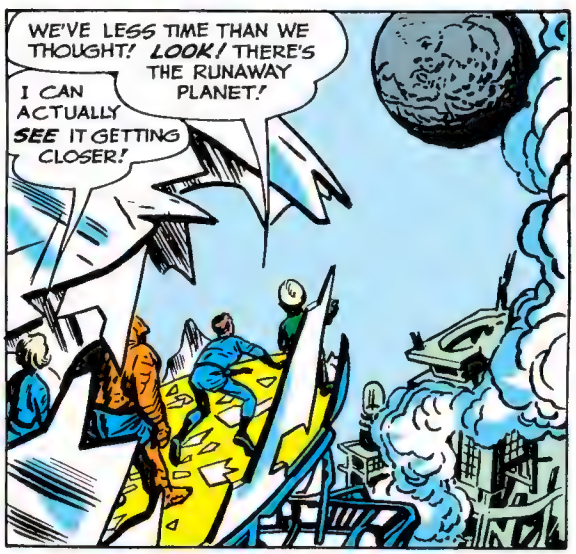
THERE! THERE IS OUR PROBLEM! A RUNAWAY PLANET, STREAKING THRU THE SKIES---ABOUT TO STRIKE PLANET X!
AND IF YOU, WITH ALL YOUR WIZARDRY AND POWERS, CANNOT FIND A WAY TO SAVE US, THEN WE WILL PERISH---TOGETHER!
REED! WHAT CAN WE DO?? THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP A RACING PLANET
I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T COME! BUT NOBODY'D LISTEN TO ME!
WE--WE'RE ALL DOOMED!!
WAIT!.. WHY CAN'T EVERY-ONE ESCAPE IN SPACE SHIPS?
BECAUSE, ALTHO' WE HAVE THE SECRET OF SPACE TRAVEL, WE HAVE NEVER CARED TO VISIT OTHER WORLDS! AND SO, ONLY TWO LARGE SHIPS HAVE BEEN BUILT! WHAT GOOD ARE THEY, WHEN THE POPULATION OF PLANET X IS... FIVE BILLION INHABITANTS??!
WELL, BIG BRAIN! YOU GOT US INTO THIS! WHAT DO WE DO NOW??
I DON'T KNOW, THING! BUT THIS IS NO TIME FOR SQUABBLING! WE'VE ALL GOT TO THINK!
THINK--MY EYE! LET'S GET THAT WALKIN' HUNKA TIN TO TAKE US BACK TO EARTH---PRONTO!
NO! HE IS MY SERVANT! HE TAKES ORDERS FROM NONE BUT KURRGO!
OH YEAH?? WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
FOOL! HE IS MADE OF THE STRONGEST SUBSTANCE IN THE UNIVERSE!
OWWWW...!!
HE--- WASN'T KIDDIN'!
SUDDENLY AT A COMMAND FROM KURRGO, THE SILENT ROBOT GRASP THE THING'S ACHING ARM AND HURLS HIM ACROSS THE CHAMBER, AS THOUGH HIS FOE WERE WEIGHTLESS!
EVEN YOUR STRENGTH IS NO MATCH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MASTERED GRAVITY!
17

NOBODY DOES THAT TO THE THING -- NOBODY!!
FLAME ON!
REACH ALL YOU WANT TO, TIN MAN! YOU'LL FIND THAT I'M TOO HOT TO HANDLE!
I'M GONNA DO SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID TO TRY BEFORE!
BY INCREASING MY FLAME TO FEVER PITCH, I CAN ATTAIN THE GREATEST HEAT IN THE UNIVERSE!
I CAN MATCH THE FIERY BLAZE OF AN EXPLODING STAR ...A SUPER NOVA!!
NO, TORCH-- --NO!!.. DON'T DO IT!!
IT'S TOO MUCH POWER! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT! STOP, TORCH!!
IT'S NO USE! HE CAN'T EVEN HEAR ME!
GET BACK--- ALL OF YOU! I'LL STOP HIM!
HE'LL HAVE TO STOP WHEN HE SEES ME!
TORCH, DON'T!
AND NOW, I'LL---SUE! NO!! GOT TO TURN! CAN'T HURT SUE!!
WHEW!-! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, KID! YOU ALMOST BLEW US ALL UP!
IDIOTS! DON'T WASTE PRECIOUS MINUTES! EVERY SECOND BRINGS US CLOSER TO DESTRUCTION! YOU MUST FIND A WAY TO SAVE PLANET X-- IN 24 HOURS!
18.

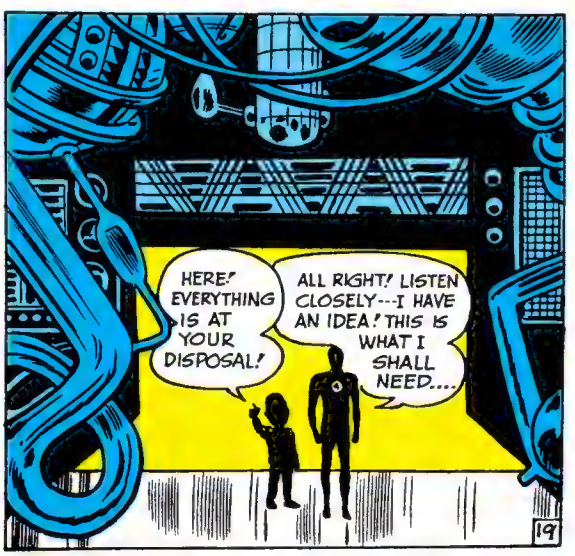
HE'S RIGHT! WE CANNOT ESCAPE PLANET X! AND IF WE REMAIN HERE, WE'LL PERISH WITH THE OTHER FIVE BILLION INHABITANTS, UNLESS....
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? ...WE'VE ONLY 24 HOURS!
REED! YOU'RE THE GREATEST SCIENTIST OF EARTH---PERHAPS IN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE! YOU MUST THINK OF SOMETHING!

ALL RIGHT! WE'VE NO OTHER CHOICE! PERHAPS WE CAN SAVE THE PLANET---AND OURSELVES!
HE'LL DO IT! IF ANYONE CAN, MR. FANTASTIC IS THE ONE!
HOW'S ABOUT A LITTLE LESS TALK AND A LITTLE MORE ACTION??
OH, REED--- IF ONLY YOU COULD!


BUT, AT THAT INSTANT...
BAARROOM!
LOOK OUT!.. IT'S A SHOCK WAVE--THE PLANET IS STARTING TO BREAK UP!


WE'VE LESS TIME THAN WE THOUGHT! LOOK! THERE'S THE RUNAWAY PLANET!
I CAN ACTUALLY SEE IT GETTING CLOSER!

I CARE NOTHING FOR YOUR WORTHLESS LIVES---NOR FOR THE LIVES OF MY SUBJECTS! BUT I AM MASTER OF PLANET X, AND MY PEOPLE MUST BE SAVED--- SO THAT I CAN REMAIN THEIR MASTER!
QUICK! WHERE IS YOUR MOST MODERN LAB??


HERE! EVERYTHING IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL!
ALL RIGHT! LISTEN CLOSELY---I HAVE AN IDEA! THIS IS WHAT I SHALL NEED....
19

PART 5
THE FANTASTIC FOUR in "the END of PLANET X!"
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
WITH SUPPLIES HASTILY BROUGHT BY KURRGO'S ROBOTS, AND THE HELP OF HIS SUPERHUMAN PARTNERS, MR. FANTASTIC UNDERTAKES THE MOST DRAMATIC RACE AGAINST TIME OF HIS CAREER, AS HE FRANTICALLY CONSTRUCTS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING DEVICES OF ALL TIME!
HURRY, TORCH! I NEED THAT CASTING!
JUST ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, REED, AND I'LL HAVE IT ALL WELDED!
WE'VE GOT TO FINISH IN TIME! WE'VE SIMPLY GOT TO!
HEY! WHERE DO YOU WANT THIS BLAMED THING? I CAN'T HOLD IT ALL DAY!
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V-895
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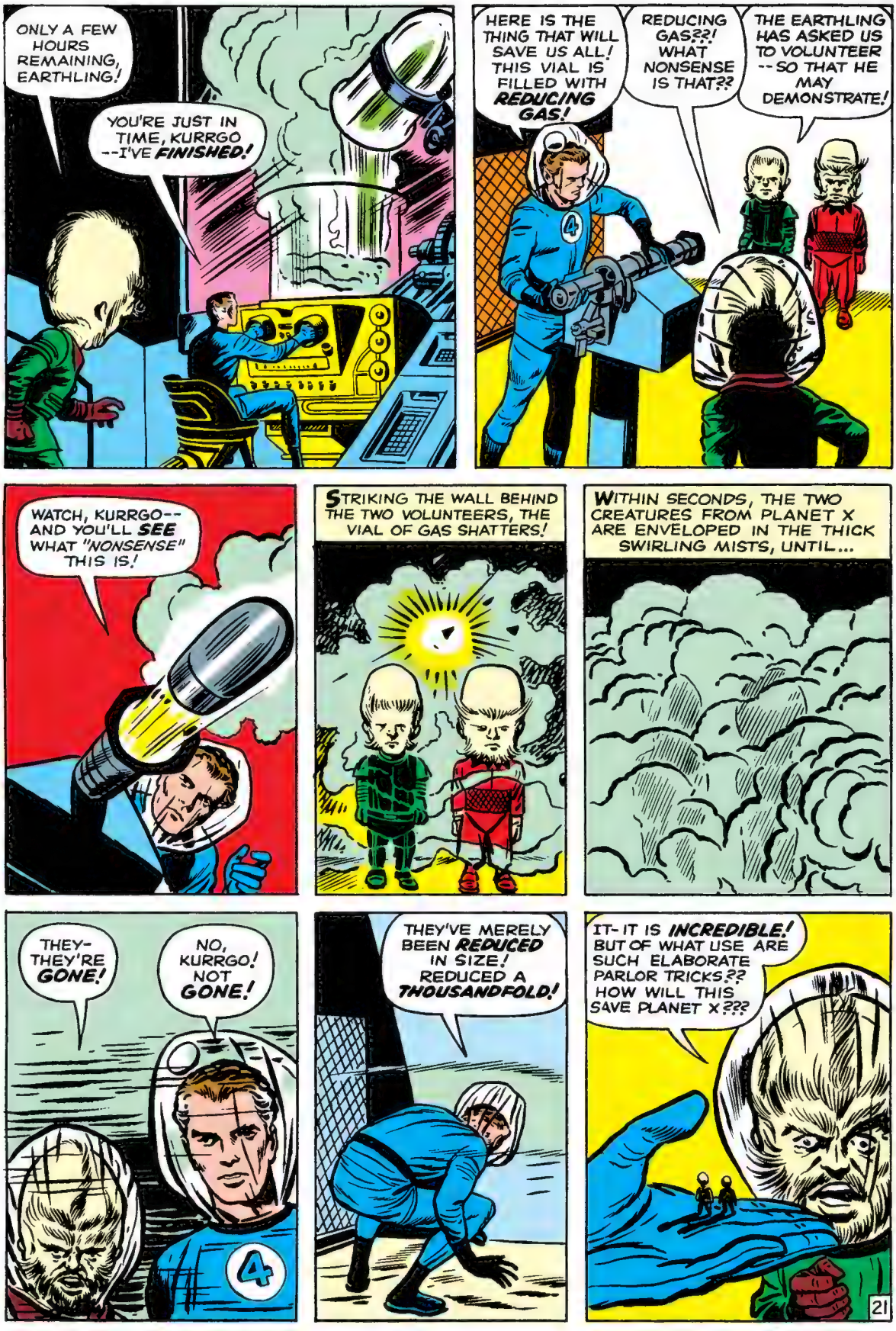
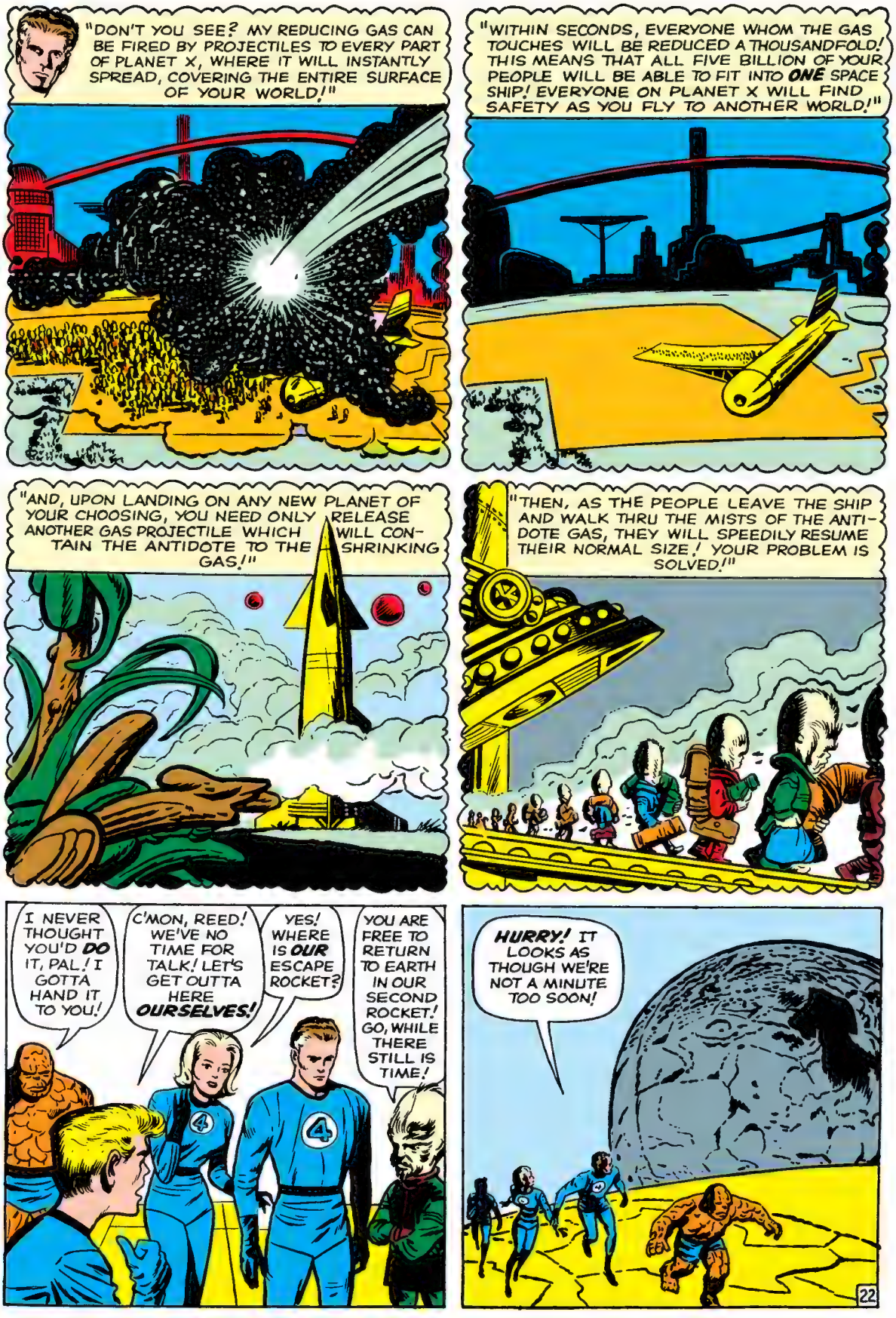
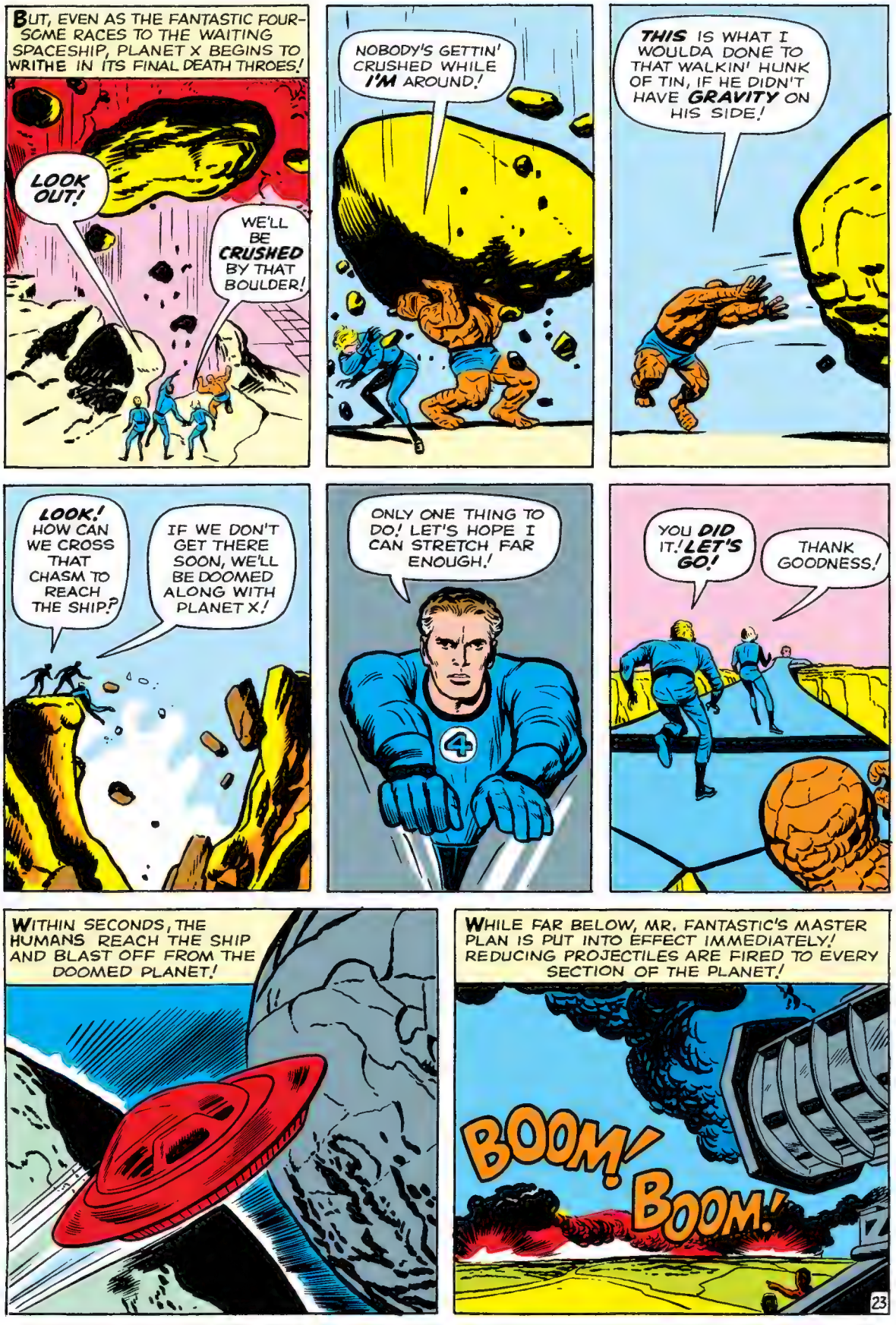
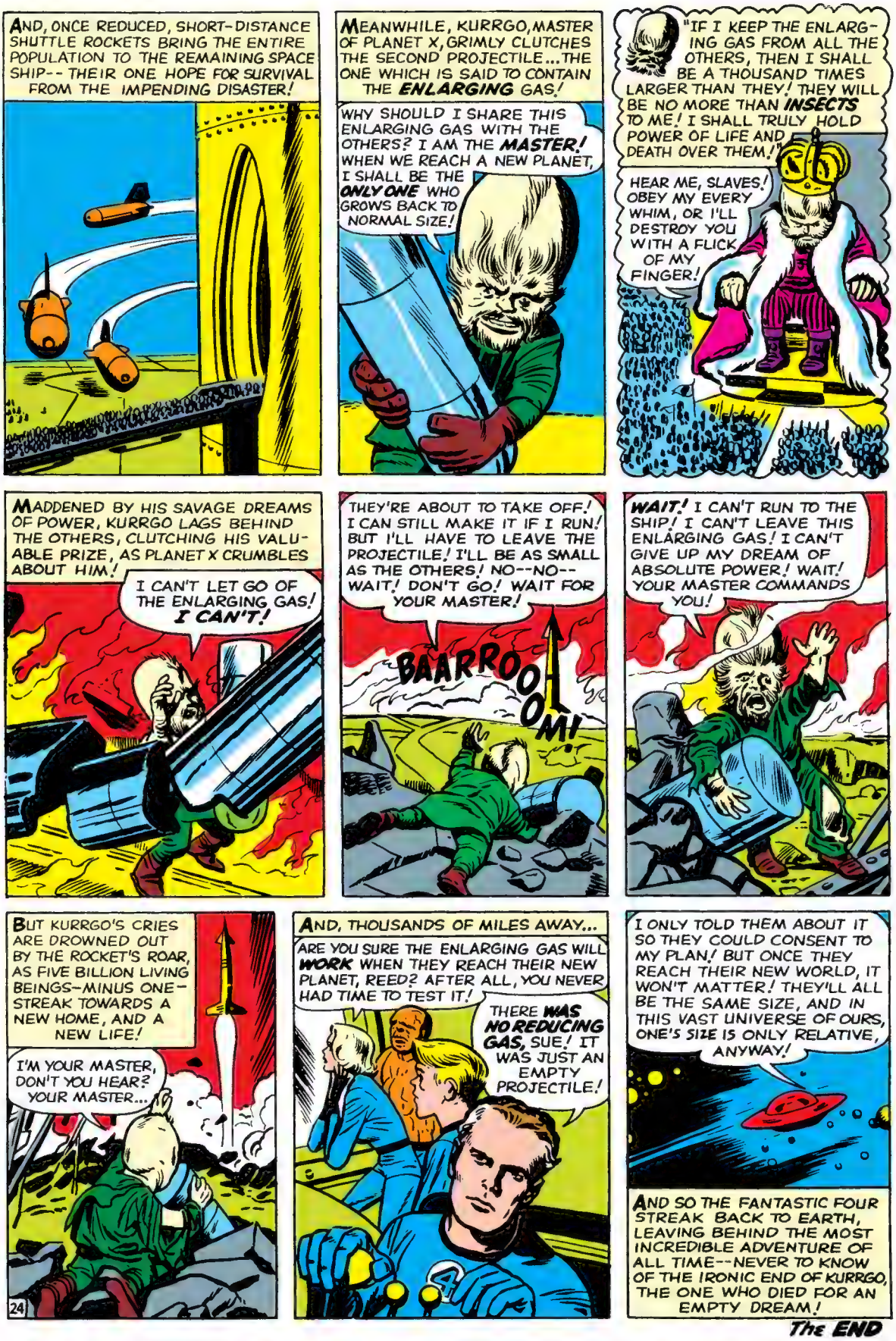

ONLY A FEW HOURS REMAINING, EARTHLING!
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, KURRGO --I'VE FINISHED!
HERE IS THE THING THAT WILL SAVE US ALL! THIS VIAL IS FILLED WITH REDUCING GAS!
REDUCING GAS?! WHAT NONSENSE IS THAT??
THE EARTHLING HAS ASKED US TO VOLUNTEER -- SO THAT HE MAY DEMONSTRATE!
WATCH, KURRGO-- AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT "NONSENSE" THIS IS!
STRIKING THE WALL BEHIND THE TWO VOLUNTEERS, THE VIAL OF GAS SHATTERS!
WITHIN SECONDS, THE TWO CREATURES FROM PLANET X ARE ENVELOPED IN THE THICK SWIRLING MISTS, UNTIL...
THEY- THEY'RE GONE!
NO, KURRGO! NOT GONE!
THEY'VE MERELY BEEN REDUCED IN SIZE! REDUCED A THOUSANDFOLD!
IT- IT IS INCREDIBLE! BUT OF WHAT USE ARE SUCH ELABORATE PARLOR TRICKS?? HOW WILL THIS SAVE PLANET X???
21


"DON'T YOU SEE? MY REDUCING GAS CAN BE FIRED BY PROJECTILES TO EVERY PART OF PLANET X, WHERE IT WILL INSTANTLY SPREAD, COVERING THE ENTIRE SURFACE OF YOUR WORLD!"
"WITHIN SECONDS, EVERYONE WHOM THE GAS TOUCHES WILL BE REDUCED A THOUSANDFOLD! THIS MEANS THAT ALL FIVE BILLION OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO FIT INTO ONE SPACE SHIP! EVERYONE ON PLANET X WILL FIND SAFETY AS YOU FLY TO ANOTHER WORLD!"
"AND, UPON LANDING ON ANY NEW PLANET OF YOUR CHOOSING, YOU NEED ONLY RELEASE ANOTHER GAS PROJECTILE WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE ANTIDOTE TO THE SHRINKING GAS!"
"THEN, AS THE PEOPLE LEAVE THE SHIP AND WALK THRU THE MISTS OF THE ANTIDOTE GAS, THEY WILL SPEEDILY RESUME THEIR NORMAL SIZE! YOUR PROBLEM IS SOLVED!"
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D DO IT, PAL! I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU!
C'MON, REED! WE'VE NO TIME FOR TALK! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE OURSELVES!
YES! WHERE IS OUR ESCAPE ROCKET?
YOU ARE FREE TO RETURN TO EARTH IN OUR SECOND ROCKET! GO, WHILE THERE STILL IS TIME!
HURRY! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE'RE NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON!
22


BUT, EVEN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR-SOME RACES TO THE WAITING SPACESHIP, PLANET X BEGINS TO WRITHE IN ITS FINAL DEATH THROES!
LOOK OUT!
WE'LL BE CRUSHED BY THAT BOULDER!
NOBODY'S GETTIN' CRUSHED WHILE I'M AROUND!
THIS IS WHAT I WOULDA DONE TO THAT WALKIN' HUNK OF TIN, IF HE DIDN'T HAVE GRAVITY ON HIS SIDE!
LOOK! HOW CAN WE CROSS THAT CHASM TO REACH THE SHIP?
IF WE DON'T GET THERE SOON, WE'LL BE DOOMED ALONG WITH PLANET X!
ONLY ONE THING TO DO! LET'S HOPE I CAN STRETCH FAR ENOUGH!
YOU DID IT! LET'S GO!
THANK GOODNESS!
WITHIN SECONDS, THE HUMANS REACH THE SHIP AND BLAST OFF FROM THE DOOMED PLANET!
WHILE FAR BELOW, MR. FANTASTIC'S MASTER PLAN IS PUT INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY! REDUCING PROJECTILES ARE FIRED TO EVERY SECTION OF THE PLANET!
BOOM!
BOOM!


AND, ONCE REDUCED, SHORT-DISTANCE SHUTTLE ROCKETS BRING THE ENTIRE POPULATION TO THE REMAINING SPACE SHIP-- THEIR ONE HOPE FOR SURVIVAL FROM THE IMPENDING DISASTER!
MEANWHILE, KURRGO, MASTER OF PLANET X, GRIMLY CLUTCHES THE SECOND PROJECTILE...THE ONE WHICH IS SAID TO CONTAIN THE ENLARGING GAS!
WHY SHOULD I SHARE THIS ENLARGING GAS WITH THE OTHERS? I AM THE MASTER! WHEN WE REACH A NEW PLANET, I SHALL BE THE ONLY ONE WHO GROWS BACK TO NORMAL SIZE!
"IF I KEEP THE ENLARGING GAS FROM ALL THE OTHERS, THEN I SHALL BE A THOUSAND TIMES LARGER THAN THEY! THEY WILL BE NO MORE THAN INSECTS TO ME! I SHALL TRULY HOLD POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER THEM!"
HEAR ME, SLAVES! OBEY MY EVERY WHIM, OR I'LL DESTROY YOU WITH A FLICK OF MY FINGER!
MADDENED BY HIS SAVAGE DREAMS OF POWER, KURRGO LAGS BEHIND THE OTHERS, CLUTCHING HIS VALUABLE PRIZE, AS PLANET X CRUMBLES ABOUT HIM!
I CAN'T LET GO OF THE ENLARGING GAS! I CAN'T!
THEY'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF! I CAN STILL MAKE IT IF I RUN! BUT I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE PROJECTILE! I'LL BE AS SMALL AS THE OTHERS! NO--NO-- WAIT! DON'T GO! WAIT FOR YOUR MASTER!
BAARROOOM!
WAIT! I CAN'T RUN TO THE SHIP! I CAN'T LEAVE THIS ENLARGING GAS! I CAN'T GIVE UP MY DREAM OF ABSOLUTE POWER! WAIT! YOUR MASTER COMMANDS YOU!
BUT KURRGO'S CRIES ARE DROWNED OUT BY THE ROCKET'S ROAR, AS FIVE BILLION LIVING BEINGS--MINUS ONE--STREAK TOWARDS A NEW HOME, AND A NEW LIFE!
I'M YOUR MASTER, DON'T YOU HEAR? YOUR MASTER...
AND, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY...
ARE YOU SURE THE ENLARGING GAS WILL WORK WHEN THEY REACH THEIR NEW PLANET, REED? AFTER ALL, YOU NEVER HAD TIME TO TEST IT!
THERE WAS NO REDUCING GAS, SUE! IT WAS JUST AN EMPTY PROJECTILE!
I ONLY TOLD THEM ABOUT IT SO THEY COULD CONSENT TO MY PLAN! BUT ONCE THEY REACH THEIR NEW WORLD, IT WON'T MATTER! THEY'LL ALL BE THE SAME SIZE, AND IN THIS VAST UNIVERSE OF OURS, ONE'S SIZE IS ONLY RELATIVE, ANYWAY!
AND SO THE FANTASTIC FOUR STREAK BACK TO EARTH, LEAVING BEHIND THE MOST INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME--NEVER TO KNOW OF THE IRONIC END OF KURRGO, THE ONE WHO DIED FOR AN EMPTY DREAM!
24
THE END

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IND.
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
THE Fantastic Four
MC
8 NOV.
OBEY ME, MY PUPPETS! FOR MY WILL IS YOUR WILL! YOU SHALL NEVER ESCAPE YOUR NEW MASTER!
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF! THE PUPPET-MASTER IS MAKING ME ATTACK THE OTHERS!
DON'T, THING! WE MUSTN'T LET HIM CONTROL US!
"PRISONERS OF THE PUPPET-MASTER!"
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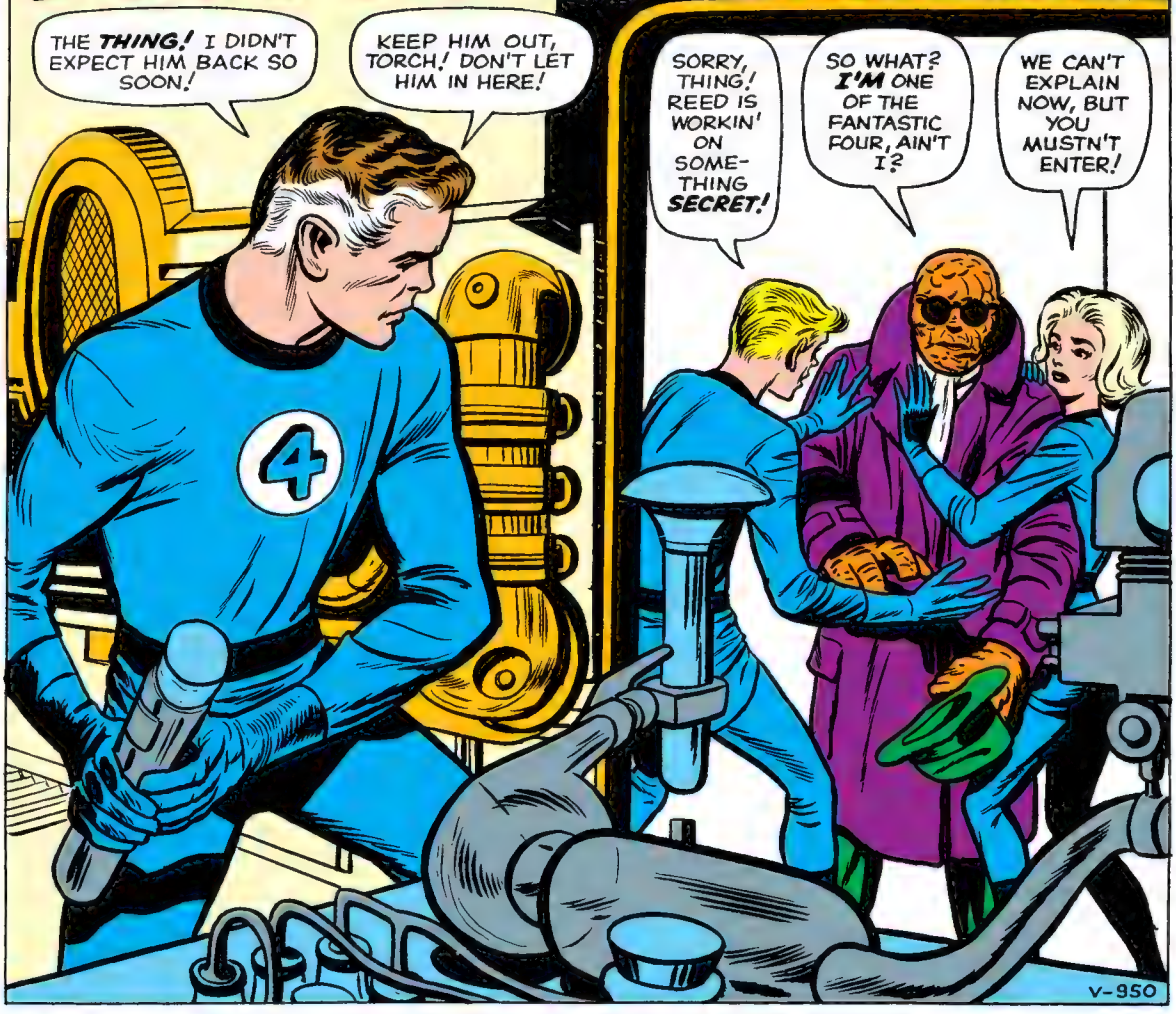
THE FANTASTIC FOUR in:

PRISONERS OF THE PUPPET MASTER!

Stan Lee + J. KIRBY


THE THING! I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM BACK SO SOON!
KEEP HIM OUT, TORCH! DON'T LET HIM IN HERE!
SORRY, THING! REED IS WORKIN' ON SOMETHING SECRET!
SO WHAT? I'M ONE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AIN'T I?
WE CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW, BUT YOU MUSTN'T ENTER!
4
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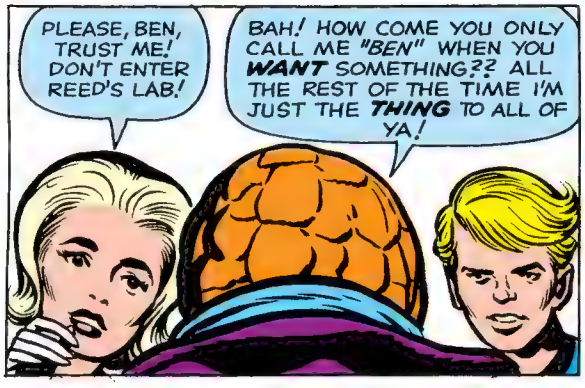
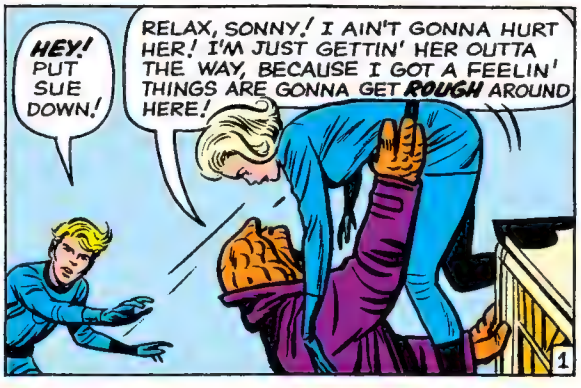
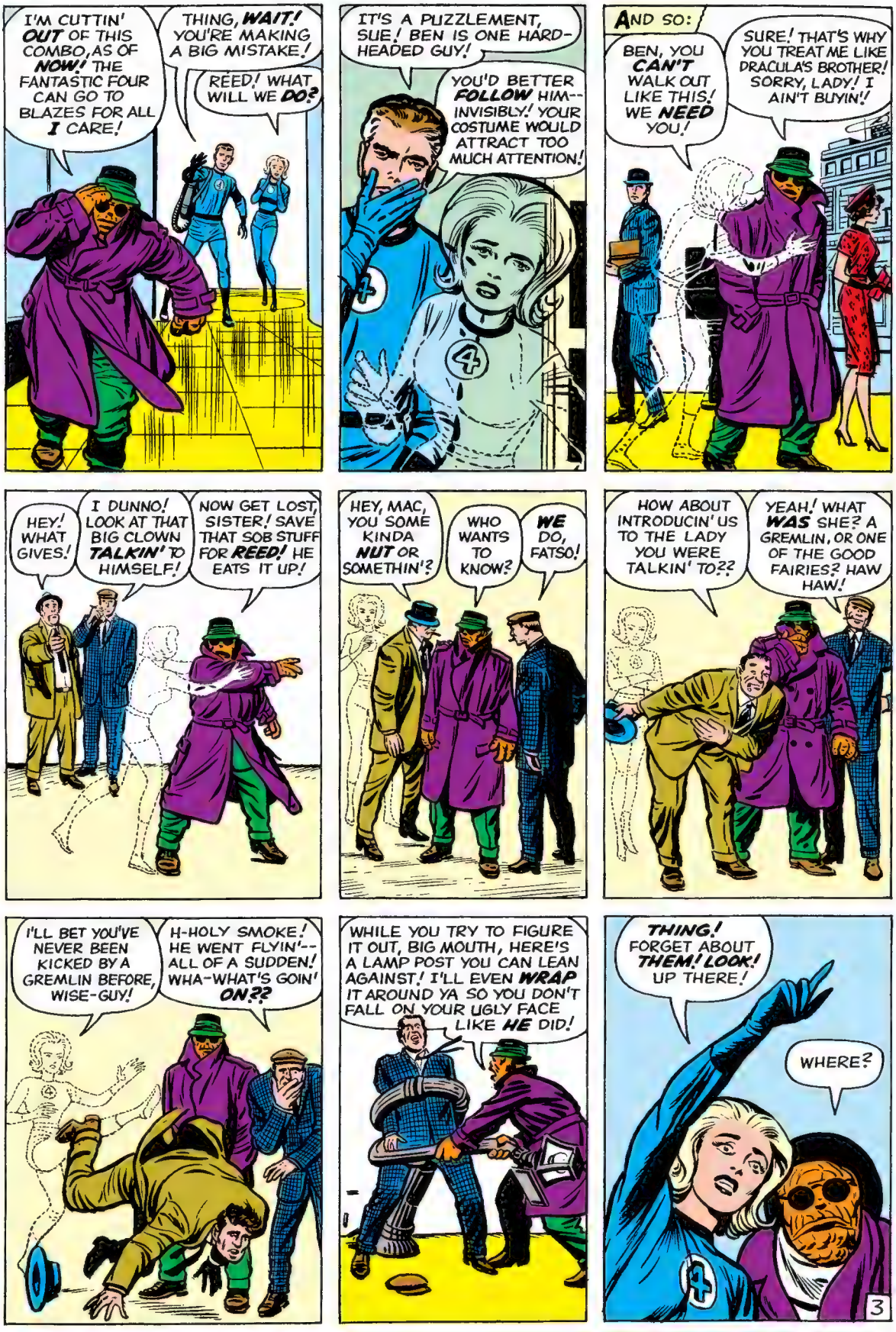

PLEASE, BEN, TRUST ME! DON'T ENTER REED'S LAB!
BAH! HOW COME YOU ONLY CALL ME "BEN" WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING?? ALL THE REST OF THE TIME I'M JUST THE THING TO ALL OF YA!


HEY! PUT SUE DOWN!
RELAX, SONNY! I AIN'T GONNA HURT HER! I'M JUST GETTIN' HER OUTTA THE WAY, BECAUSE I GOT A FEELIN' THINGS ARE GONNA GET ROUGH AROUND HERE!
1

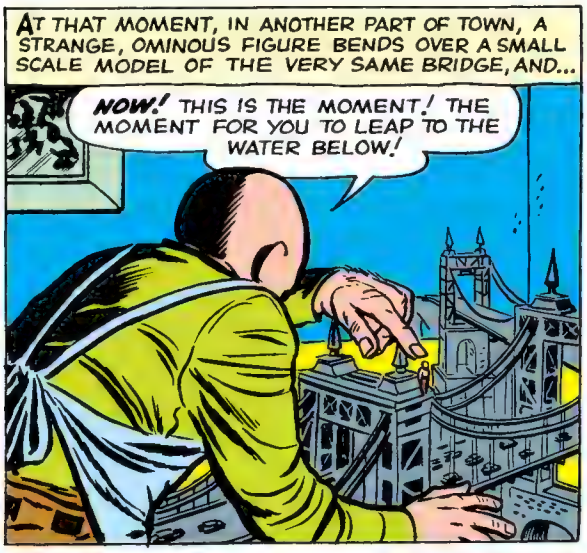
OKAY NOW! I'M GONNA TEACH YOU AND THAT WALKIN' RUBBER-BAND NOT TO TRY TO KEEP SECRETS FROM ME!
THING, WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
I UNDERSTAND PLENTY! I'M THRU BEIN' A PATSY FOR YOU TWO GRAND-STANDERS!
YOU'RE REAL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH ME WHEN YOU NEED MY MUSCLE-- BUT WHENEVER SOMETHING IM-PORTANT COMES ALONG, I AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO BE TOLD ABOUT IT!
WELL, NOW THERE'S BE SOME CHANGES AROUND HERE!
LISTEN, YOU BIG LUMP OF LARD--DON'T TRY TO SCARE ME! HERE, SEE WHAT YOUR STRENGTH CAN DO AGAINST MY ROMAN CANDLE PUNCH!
LOOK OUT, JUNIOR! THAT'S HOT!
IF YOU THINK THAT'S HOT, I'LL JUST CIRCLE YOU WITH THIS RING OF FIRE UNTIL YOU CAN COOL OFF!
SONNY, THAT FLAME OF YOURS DON'T BURN FOREVER--AND WHEN IT DIES DOWN, I'M GONNA MAKE MINCE-MEAT OUTTA YA!
KNOCK IT OFF, BOTH OF YOU! HERE, THING, I'LL DOUSE THAT FLAME FOR YOU!
BOY! REED'S GETTIN' TO BE "MR. KILLJOY OF 1962"!
HUSH, JOHNNY! HE'S ONLY TRYING TO HELP!
NOW LOOK, THING--I CAN EXPLAIN WHY I DIDN'T WANT YOU IN MY LAB...
STOW IT, CHUM! I'M FED UP TO HERE WITH YOUR SMOOTH TALK!

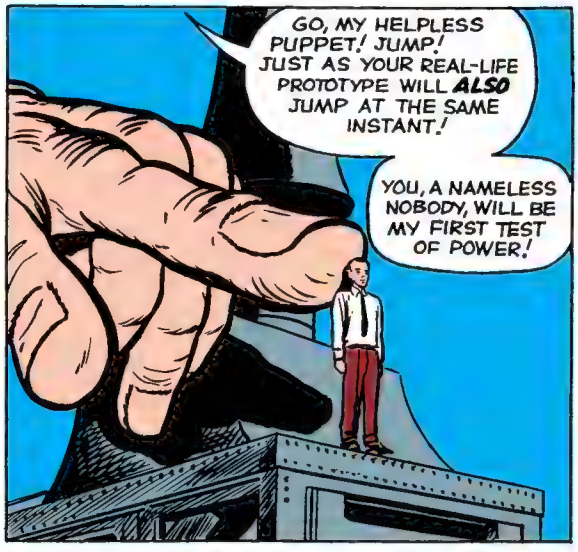

I'M CUTTIN' OUT OF THIS COMBO, AS OF NOW! THE FANTASTIC FOUR CAN GO TO BLAZES FOR ALL I CARE!
THING, WAIT! YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!
REED! WHAT WILL WE DO?
IT'S A PUZZLEMENT, SUE! BEN IS ONE HARD-HEADED GUY!
YOU'D BETTER FOLLOW HIM--INVISIBLY! YOUR COSTUME WOULD ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENTION!
AND SO:
BEN, YOU CAN'T WALK OUT LIKE THIS! WE NEED YOU!
SURE! THAT'S WHY YOU TREAT ME LIKE DRACULA'S BROTHER! SORRY, LADY! I AIN'T BUYIN'!
HEY! WHAT GIVES!
I DUNNO! LOOK AT THAT BIG CLOWN TALKIN' TO HIMSELF!
NOW GET LOST, SISTER! SAVE THAT SOB STUFF FOR REED! HE EATS IT UP!
HEY, MAC, YOU SOME KINDA NUT OR SOMETHIN'?
WHO WANTS TO KNOW?
WE DO, FATSO!
HOW ABOUT INTRODUCIN' US TO THE LADY YOU WERE TALKIN' TO??
YEAH! WHAT WAS SHE? A GREMLIN, OR ONE OF THE GOOD FAIRIES? HAW HAW!
I'LL BET YOU'VE NEVER BEEN KICKED BY A GREMLIN BEFORE, WISE-GUY!
H-HOLY SMOKE! HE WENT FLYIN'--ALL OF A SUDDEN! WHA-WHAT'S GOIN' ON??
WHILE YOU TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT, BIG MOUTH, HERE'S A LAMP POST YOU CAN LEAN AGAINST! I'LL EVEN WRAP IT AROUND YA SO YOU DON'T FALL ON YOUR UGLY FACE LIKE HE DID!
THING! FORGET ABOUT THEM! LOOK! UP THERE!
WHERE?
3

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE MOST DRAMATIC SIGHT IN THE CITY APPEARS IN THE SKY! THE CALL TO ACTION OF THE MOST COLORFUL TEAM OF ADVENTURERS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN! THE AWE-INSPIRING FLARE SIGNAL OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

GOOD LUCK, PARTNER!
FLAME ON!

HOLD IT, FELLA! DON'T DO IT!
HIS EYES! THAT GLAZED LOOK! AS THOUGH--HE'S IN A TRANCE!

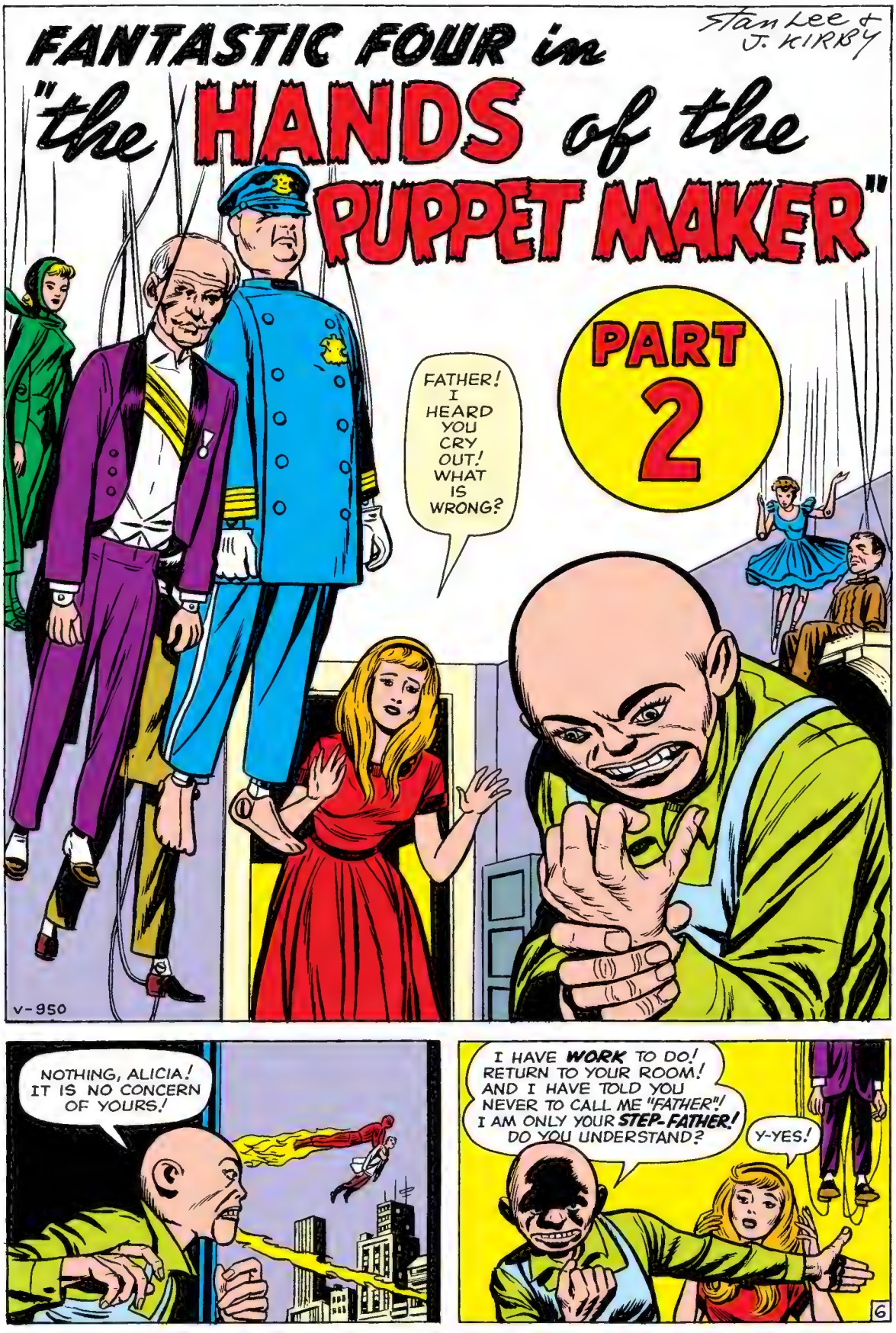

AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, A STRANGE, OMINOUS FIGURE BENDS OVER A SMALL SCALE MODEL OF THE VERY SAME BRIDGE, AND...
NOW! THIS IS THE MOMENT! THE MOMENT FOR YOU TO LEAP TO THE WATER BELOW!

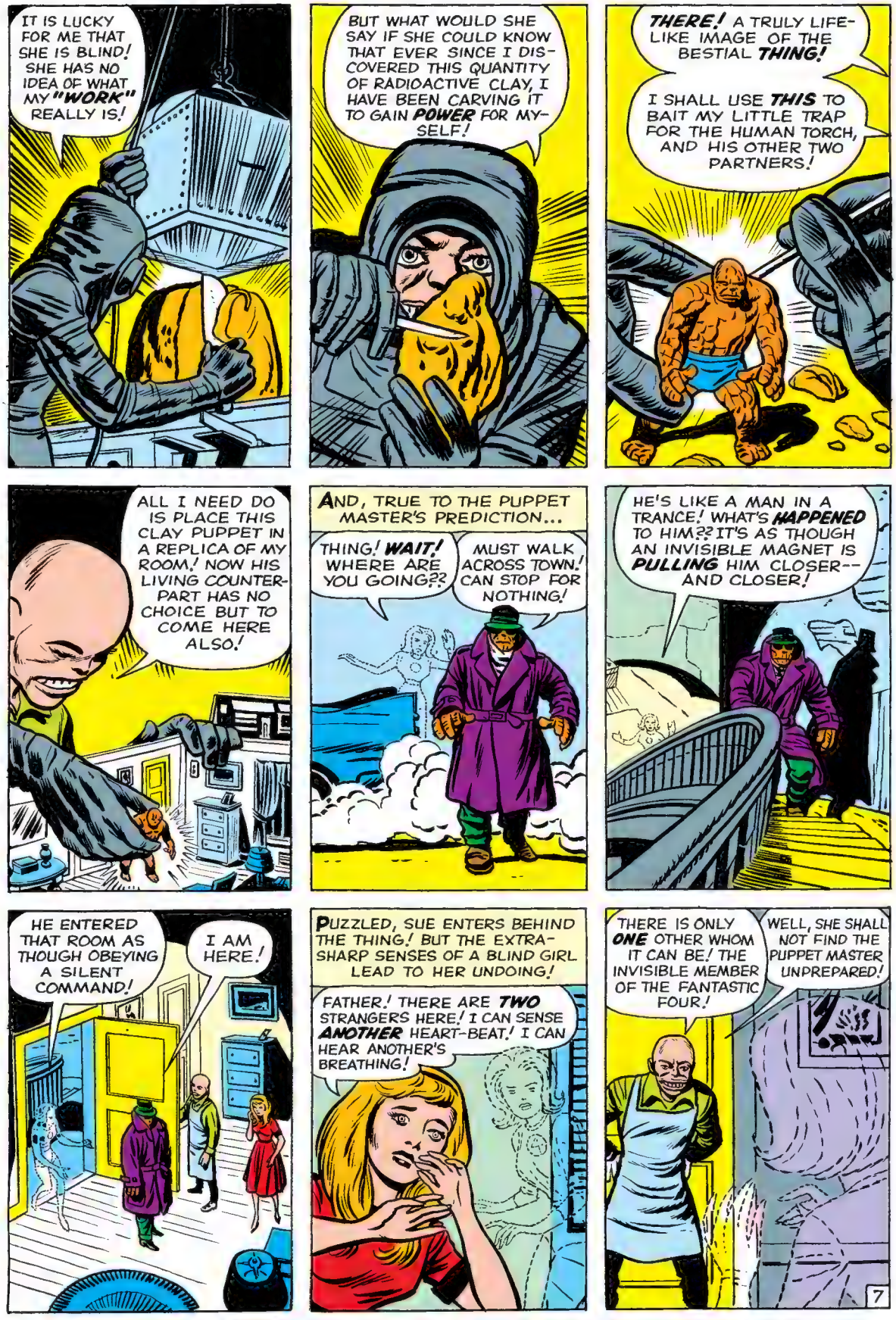

GO, MY HELPLESS PUPPET! JUMP! JUST AS YOUR REAL-LIFE PROTOTYPE WILL ALSO JUMP AT THE SAME INSTANT!
YOU, A NAMELESS NOBODY, WILL BE MY FIRST TEST OF POWER!

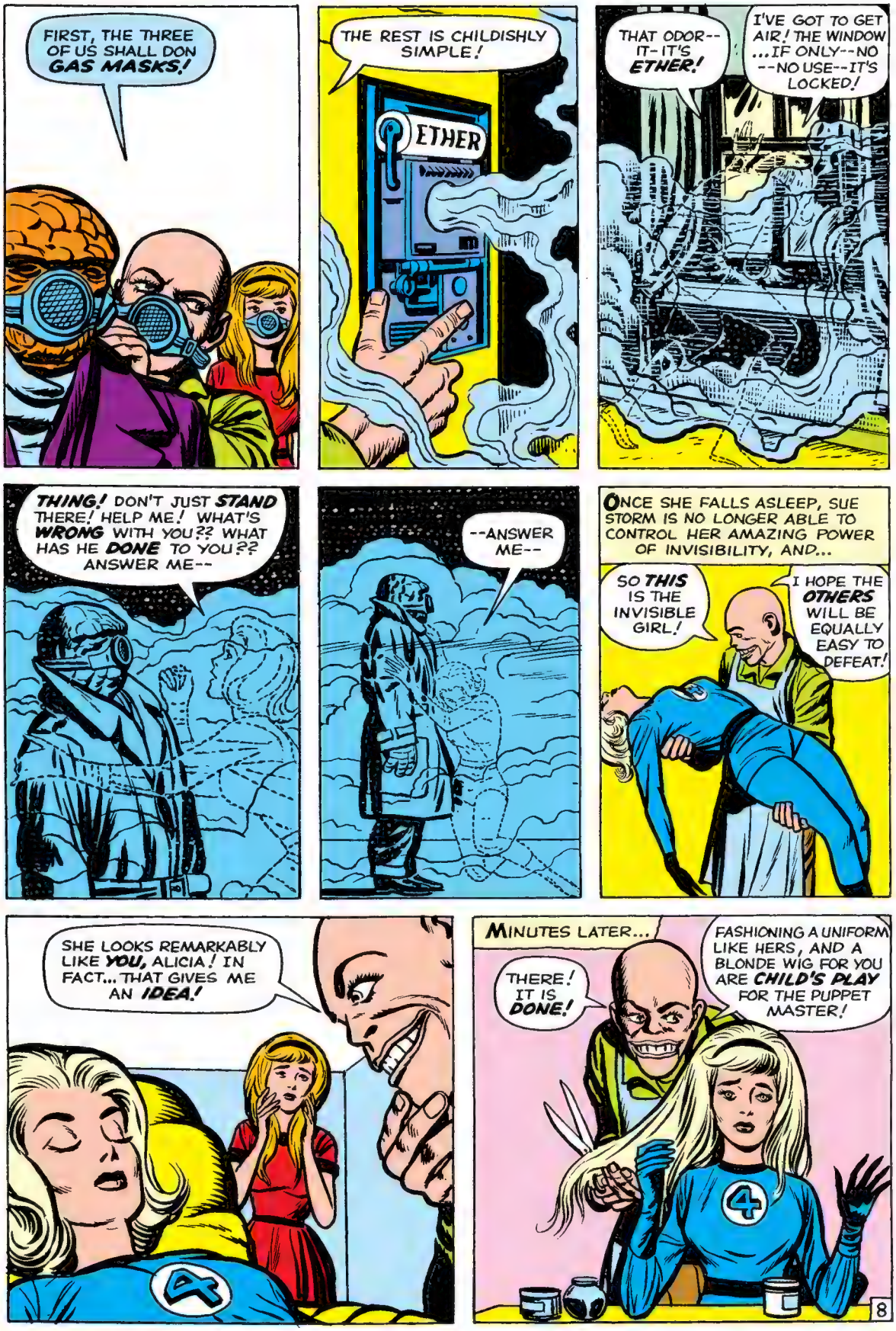
BUT BEFORE THE SPELLBOUND VICTIM CAN TAKE ANOTHER STEP, HE IS SEIZED BY THE HUMAN TORCH, AND...
WHEW! JUST MADE IT!

AND, A FEW MILES AWAY...
OWW! MY FINGER-- I BURNED IT! BUT-- HOW??

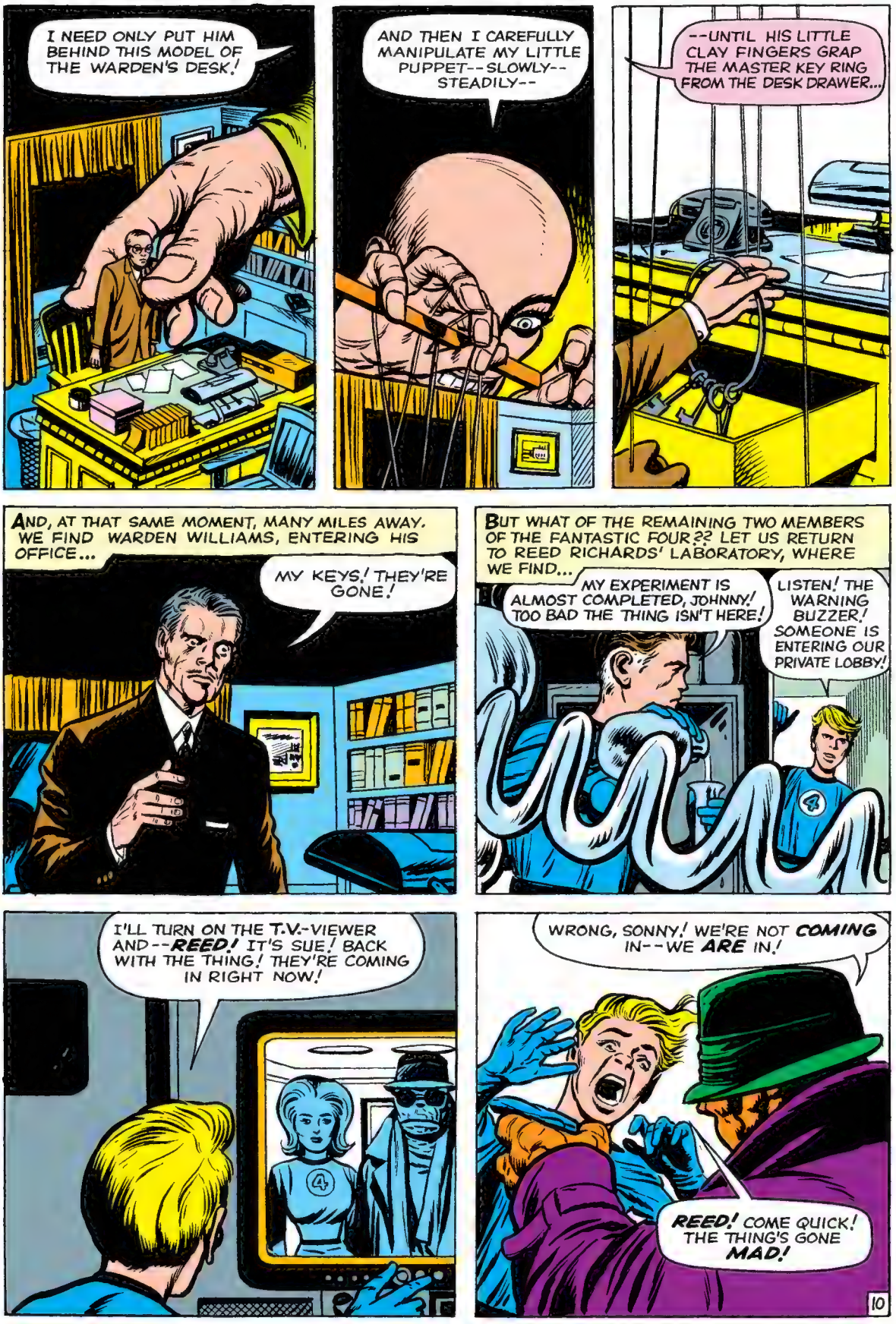
ONLY ONE LIVING CREATURE COULD HAVE DONE THIS! IT MEANS THE HUMAN TORCH WILL BE THE PUPPET MASTER'S NEXT VICTIM!
5


FANTASTIC FOUR in
"the HANDS of the PUPPET MAKER"
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
PART 2
FATHER! I HEARD YOU CRY OUT! WHAT IS WRONG?
V-950
NOTHING, ALICIA! IT IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS!
I HAVE WORK TO DO! RETURN TO YOUR ROOM! AND I HAVE TOLD YOU NEVER TO CALL ME "FATHER"! I AM ONLY YOUR STEP-FATHER! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
Y-YES!
6


IT IS LUCKY FOR ME THAT SHE IS BLIND! SHE HAS NO IDEA OF WHAT MY "WORK" REALLY IS!
BUT WHAT WOULD SHE SAY IF SHE COULD KNOW THAT EVER SINCE I DISCOVERED THIS QUANTITY OF RADIOACTIVE CLAY, I HAVE BEEN CARVING IT TO GAIN POWER FOR MYSELF!
THERE! A TRULY LIFE-LIKE IMAGE OF THE BESTIAL THING!
I SHALL USE THIS TO BAIT MY LITTLE TRAP FOR THE HUMAN TORCH, AND HIS OTHER TWO PARTNERS!
ALL I NEED DO IS PLACE THIS CLAY PUPPET IN A REPLICA OF MY ROOM! NOW HIS LIVING COUNTERPART HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO COME HERE ALSO!
AND, TRUE TO THE PUPPET MASTER'S PREDICTION...
THING! WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING??
MUST WALK ACROSS TOWN! CAN STOP FOR NOTHING!
HE'S LIKE A MAN IN A TRANCE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?? IT'S AS THOUGH AN INVISIBLE MAGNET IS PULLING HIM CLOSER-- AND CLOSER!
HE ENTERED THAT ROOM AS THOUGH OBEYING A SILENT COMMAND!
I AM HERE!
PUZZLED, SUE ENTERS BEHIND THE THING! BUT THE EXTRA-SHARP SENSES OF A BLIND GIRL LEAD TO HER UNDOING!
FATHER! THERE ARE TWO STRANGERS HERE! I CAN SENSE ANOTHER HEART-BEAT! I CAN HEAR ANOTHER'S BREATHING!
THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER WHOM IT CAN BE! THE INVISIBLE MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
WELL, SHE SHALL NOT FIND THE PUPPET MASTER UNPREPARED!


FIRST, THE THREE OF US SHALL DON GAS MASKS!
THE REST IS CHILDISHLY SIMPLE!
ETHER
THAT ODOR--IT--IT'S ETHER!
I'VE GOT TO GET AIR! THE WINDOW ...IF ONLY--NO --NO USE--IT'S LOCKED!
THING! DON'T JUST STAND THERE! HELP ME! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?? WHAT HAS HE DONE TO YOU?? ANSWER ME--
--ANSWER ME--
ONCE SHE FALLS ASLEEP, SUE STORM IS NO LONGER ABLE TO CONTROL HER AMAZING POWER OF INVISIBILITY, AND...
SO THIS IS THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
I HOPE THE OTHERS WILL BE EQUALLY EASY TO DEFEAT!
SHE LOOKS REMARKABLY LIKE YOU, ALICIA! IN FACT... THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
MINUTES LATER...
THERE! IT IS DONE!
FASHIONING A UNIFORM LIKE HERS, AND A BLONDE WIG FOR YOU ARE CHILD'S PLAY FOR THE PUPPET MASTER!
8

AND NOW, ALICIA, WHILE OUR UNINVITED GUEST SLEEPS, YOU WILL TAKE HER PLACE! YOU WILL PLAY A HARMLESS LITTLE PRANK FOR ME!
A LITTLE PRANK? BUT WHAT, FATHER?
DO NOT QUESTION ME! JUST OBEY!
THIS MAN--HIS FACE FEELS STRONG AND POWERFUL! AND YET, I CAN SENSE A GENTLENESS TO HIM--THERE IS SOMETHING TRAGIC--SOMETHING SENSITIVE!
ENOUGH OF YOUR PRATTLE! STAND BACK! I WANT TO TEST HIS STRENGTH!
I HAVE PUT A STEEL HAMMER IN HIS HAND...
AND NOW, AT MY COMMAND...
PERFECT! HE HAS NO WILL BUT MY WILL! NO BRAIN BUT MY BRAIN!
GO WITH HIM, ALICIA! SAY NOTHING, BUT DO NOT LEAVE HIS SIDE!
THIS IS ALL SO STRANGE! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
BUT I MUST DO AS I AM TOLD!
AND WHEN THEY PLAY OUT THEIR LITTLE ACT, I SHALL PROVE MY POWER IN ANOTHER WAY! I SHALL USE A NEW PUPPET ...THE PERSONAL TRUSTEE OF THE WARDEN OF STATE PRISON!

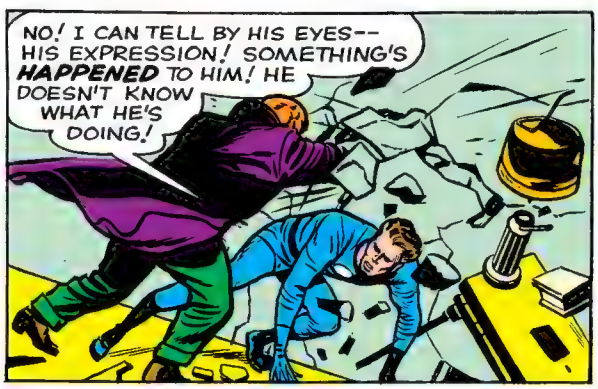

I NEED ONLY PUT HIM BEHIND THIS MODEL OF THE WARDEN'S DESK!
AND THEN I CAREFULLY MANIPULATE MY LITTLE PUPPET--SLOWLY--STEADILY--
--UNTIL HIS LITTLE CLAY FINGERS GRAP THE MASTER KEY RING FROM THE DESK DRAWER...
AND, AT THAT SAME MOMENT, MANY MILES AWAY, WE FIND WARDEN WILLIAMS, ENTERING HIS OFFICE...
MY KEYS! THEY'RE GONE!
BUT WHAT OF THE REMAINING TWO MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR?? LET US RETURN TO REED RICHARDS' LABORATORY, WHERE WE FIND...
MY EXPERIMENT IS ALMOST COMPLETED, JOHNNY! TOO BAD THE THING ISN'T HERE!
LISTEN! THE WARNING BUZZER! SOMEONE IS ENTERING OUR PRIVATE LOBBY!
I'LL TURN ON THE T.V.-VIEWER AND--REED! IT'S SUE! BACK WITH THE THING! THEY'RE COMING IN RIGHT NOW!
WRONG, SONNY! WE'RE NOT COMING IN--WE ARE IN!
REED! COME QUICK! THE THING'S GONE MAD!
10

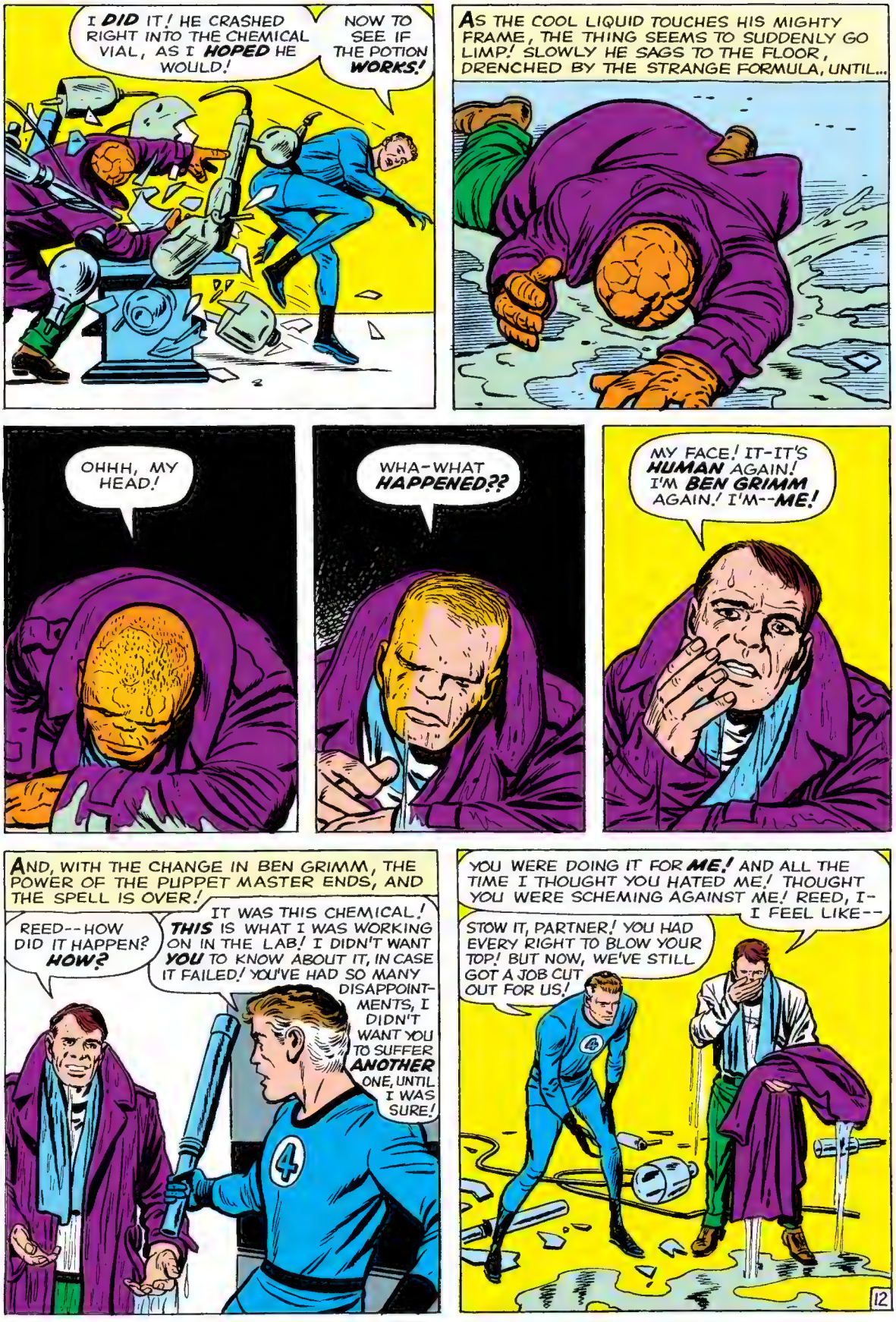
THE FANTASTIC FOUR in "THE Lady AND THE MONSTER!"

Stan Lee + J. KIRBY

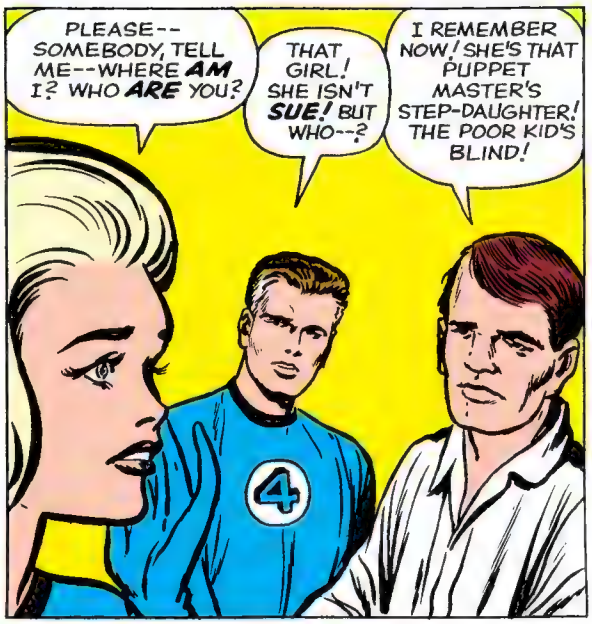
PART 3

V-950

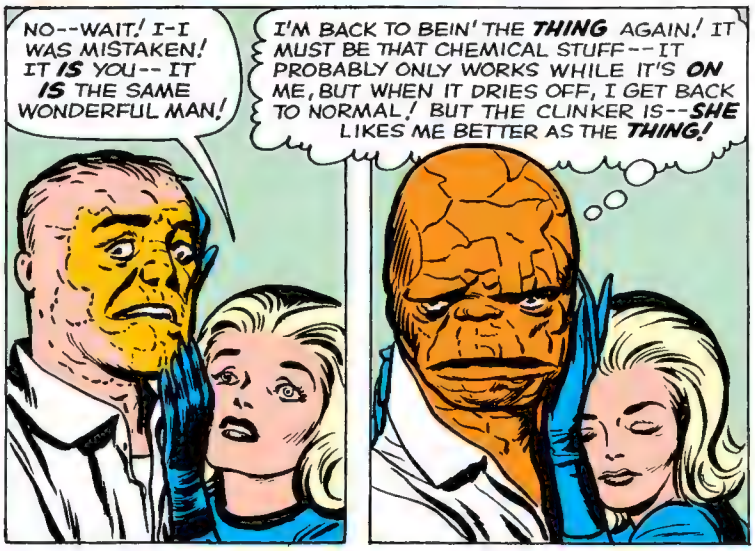


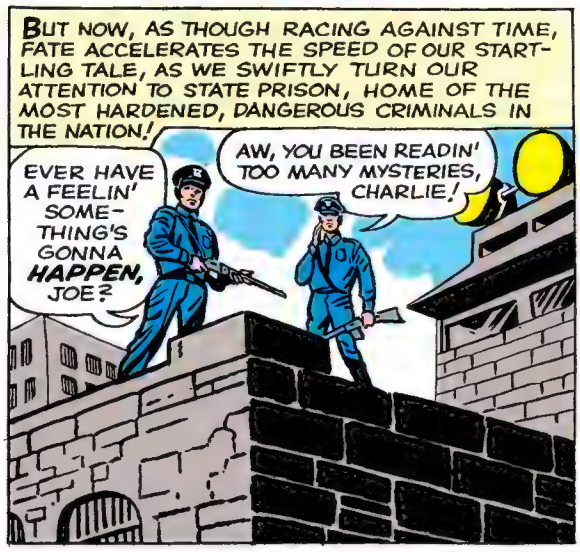

I DID IT! HE CRASHED RIGHT INTO THE CHEMICAL VIAL, AS I HOPED HE WOULD!
NOW TO SEE IF THE POTION WORKS!
AS THE COOL LIQUID TOUCHES HIS MIGHTY FRAME, THE THING SEEMS TO SUDDENLY GO LIMP! SLOWLY HE SAGS TO THE FLOOR, DRENCHED BY THE STRANGE FORMULA, UNTIL...
OHHH, MY HEAD!
WHA-WHAT HAPPENED??
MY FACE! IT-IT'S HUMAN AGAIN! I'M BEN GRIMM AGAIN! I'M--ME!
AND, WITH THE CHANGE IN BEN GRIMM, THE POWER OF THE PUPPET MASTER ENDS, AND THE SPELL IS OVER!
REED--HOW DID IT HAPPEN? HOW?
IT WAS THIS CHEMICAL! THIS IS WHAT I WAS WORKING ON IN THE LAB! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT IT, IN CASE IT FAILED! YOU'VE HAD SO MANY DISAPPOINTMENTS, I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SUFFER ANOTHER ONE, UNTIL I WAS SURE!
YOU WERE DOING IT FOR ME! AND ALL THE TIME I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME! THOUGHT YOU WERE SCHEMING AGAINST ME! REED, I-- I FEEL LIKE--
STOW IT, PARTNER! YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BLOW YOUR TOP! BUT NOW, WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB CUT OUT FOR US!
12

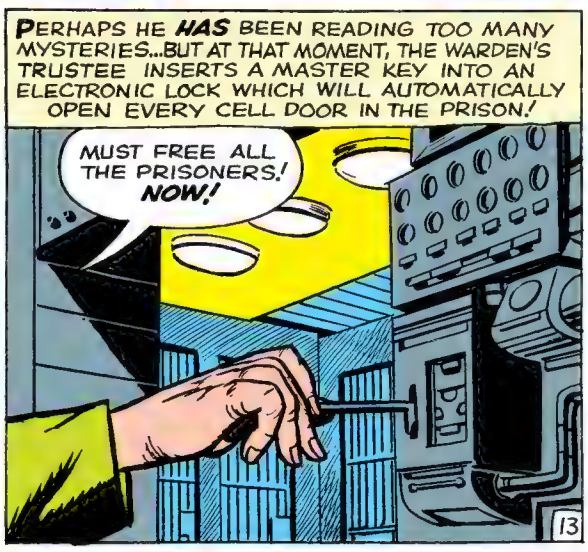
JOHNNY! ARE YOU OKAY? I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU! SAY SOMETHING, KID!
HE'S ALL RIGHT, BEN! ALL THAT YOU HURT WAS HIS PRIDE!
HEY-- YOU'RE YOURSELF AGAIN! KNOW SOMETHIN'?? IT'S NOT MUCH OF AN IMPROVE-MENT!


PLEASE-- SOMEBODY, TELL ME--WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU?
THAT GIRL! SHE ISN'T SUE! BUT WHO--?
I REMEMBER NOW! SHE'S THAT PUPPET MASTER'S STEP-DAUGHTER! THE POOR KID'S BLIND!

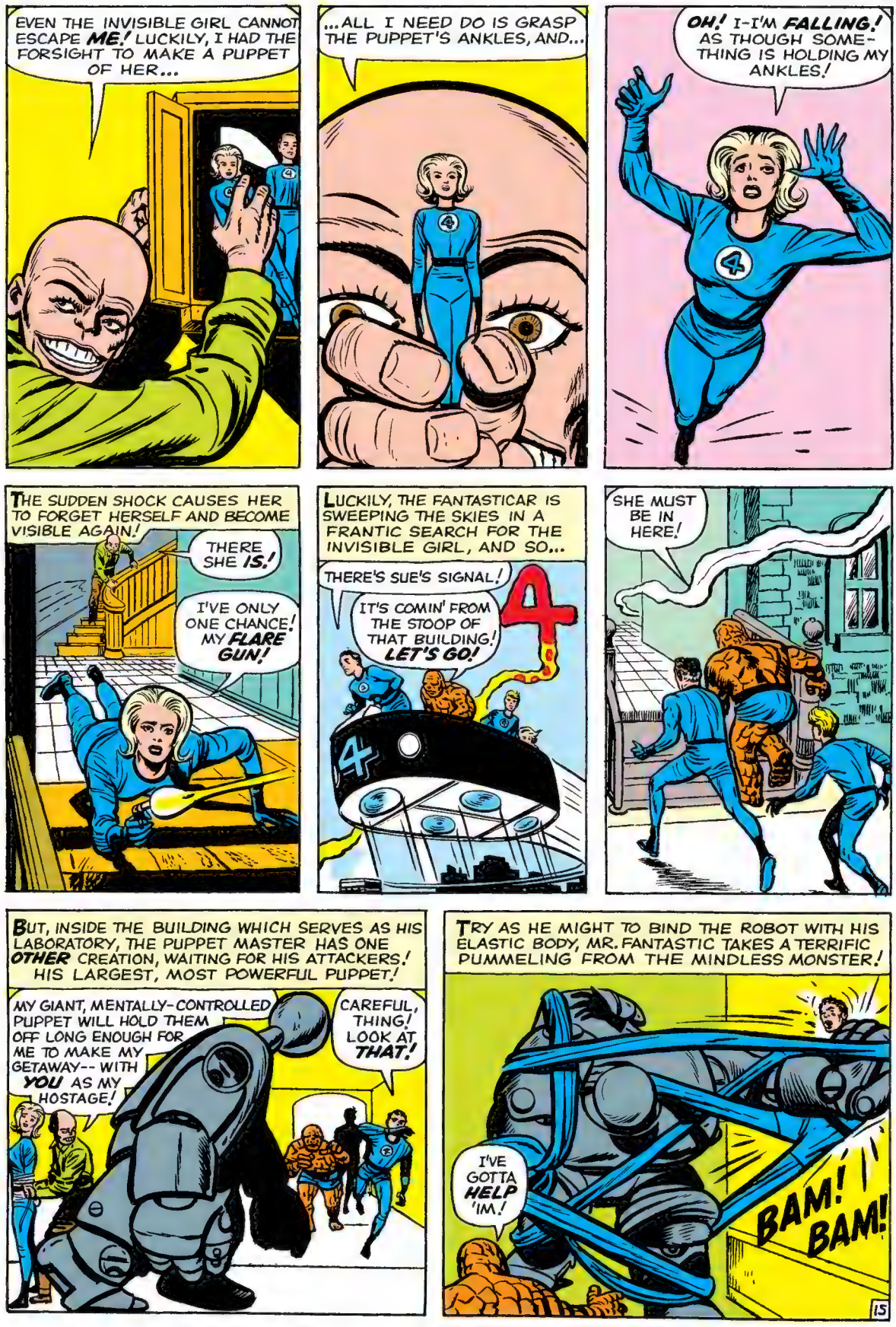
DON'T WORRY, KID! YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND! WE'RE ALL YOUR FRIENDS!
YOUR VOICE! YOU ARE THE STRONG, KINDLY ONE! BUT --YOU SEEM DIFFER-ENT NOW!

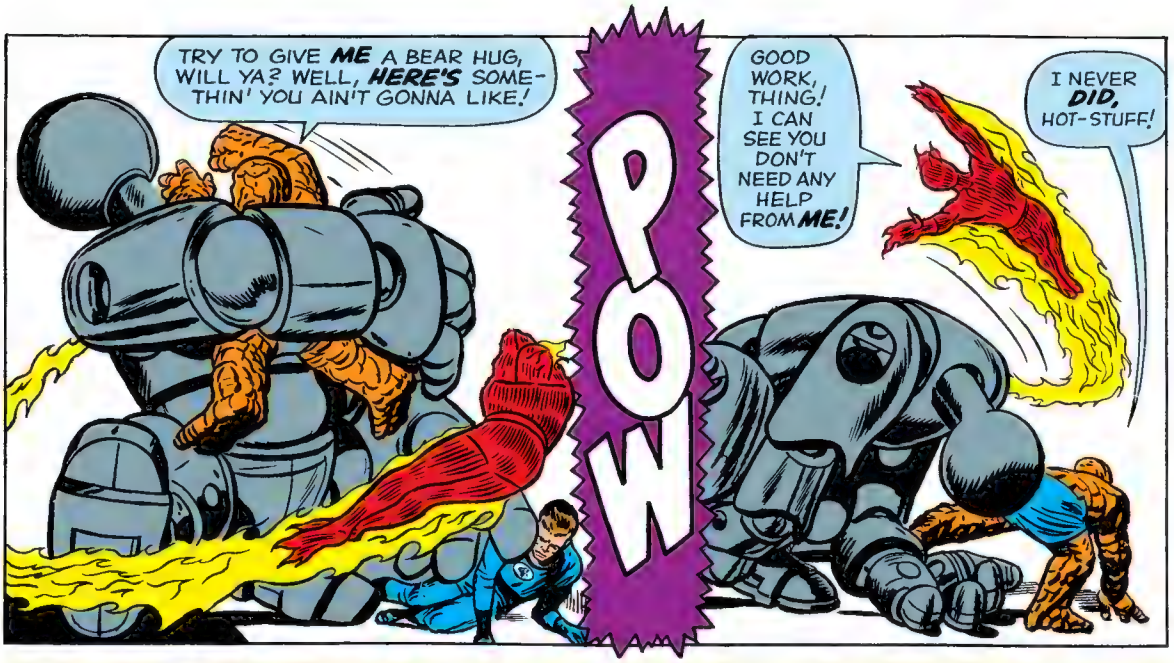

NO--WAIT! I-I WAS MISTAKEN! IT IS YOU-- IT IS THE SAME WONDERFUL MAN!
I'M BACK TO BEIN' THE THING AGAIN! IT MUST BE THAT CHEMICAL STUFF--IT PROBABLY ONLY WORKS WHILE IT'S ON ME, BUT WHEN IT DRIES OFF, I GET BACK TO NORMAL! BUT THE CLINKER IS--SHE LIKES ME BETTER AS THE THING!

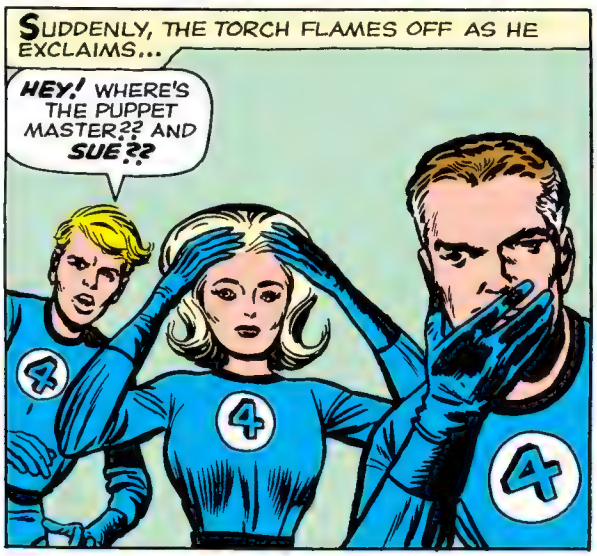

BUT NOW, AS THOUGH RACING AGAINST TIME, FATE ACCELERATES THE SPEED OF OUR START-LING TALE, AS WE SWIFTLY TURN OUR ATTENTION TO STATE PRISON, HOME OF THE MOST HARDENED, DANGEROUS CRIMINALS IN THE NATION!
EVER HAVE A FEELIN' SOME-THING'S GONNA HAPPEN, JOE?
AW, YOU BEEN READIN' TOO MANY MYSTERIES, CHARLIE!

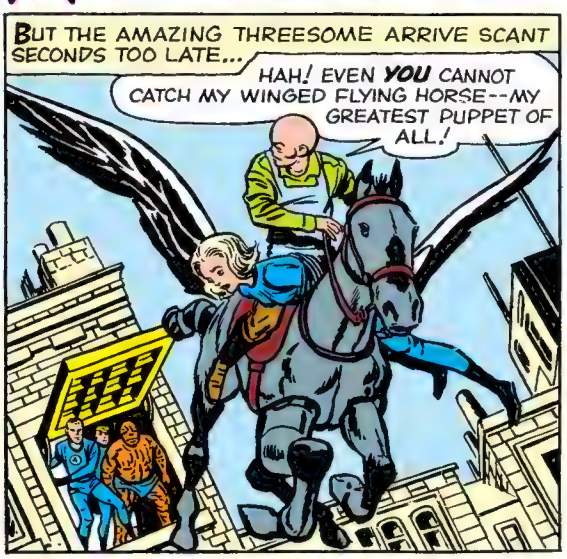

PERHAPS HE HAS BEEN READING TOO MANY MYSTERIES...BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE WARDEN'S TRUSTEE INSERTS A MASTER KEY INTO AN ELECTRONIC LOCK WHICH WILL AUTOMATICALLY OPEN EVERY CELL DOOR IN THE PRISON!
MUST FREE ALL THE PRISONERS! NOW!

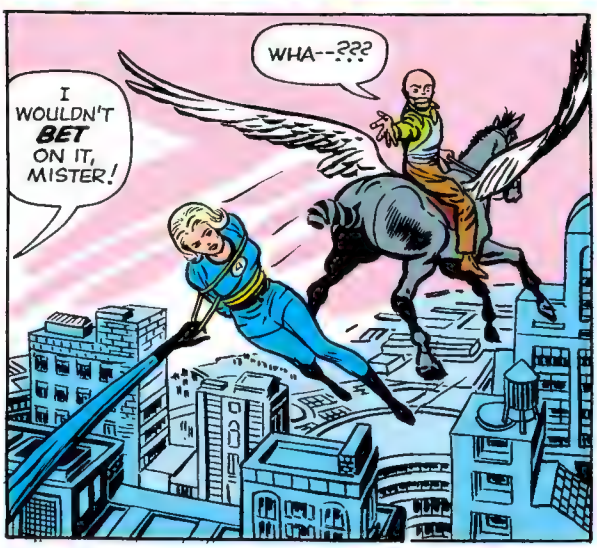
FANTASTIC FOUR in
"FACE-TO-FACE with the PUPPET MASTER!"
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
PART 4
CELL BLOCK 2
KIRBY AYERS
THE PUPPET MASTER IS SO ENGROSSED IN MANIPULATING A JAIL-BREAK, THAT THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
CREAK
V-950
HE-HE HEARD ME!
WHO OPENED THE DOOR? THE GIRL! SHE'S GONE!
14

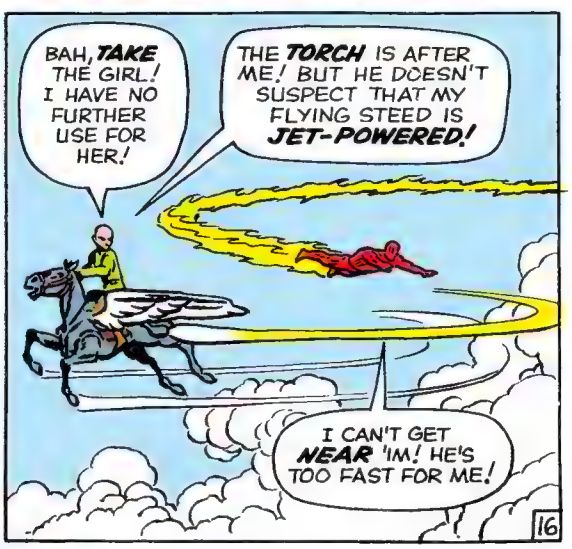

EVEN THE INVISIBLE GIRL CANNOT ESCAPE ME! LUCKILY, I HAD THE FORSIGHT TO MAKE A PUPPET OF HER...
...ALL I NEED DO IS GRASP THE PUPPET'S ANKLES, AND...
OH! I-I'M FALLING! AS THOUGH SOMETHING IS HOLDING MY ANKLES!
THE SUDDEN SHOCK CAUSES HER TO FORGET HERSELF AND BECOME VISIBLE AGAIN!
THERE SHE IS!
I'VE ONLY ONE CHANCE! MY FLARE GUN!
LUCKILY, THE FANTASTICAR IS SWEEPING THE SKIES IN A FRANTIC SEARCH FOR THE INVISIBLE GIRL, AND SO...
THERE'S SUE'S SIGNAL!
IT'S COMIN' FROM THE STOOP OF THAT BUILDING! LET'S GO!
SHE MUST BE IN HERE!
BUT, INSIDE THE BUILDING WHICH SERVES AS HIS LABORATORY, THE PUPPET MASTER HAS ONE OTHER CREATION, WAITING FOR HIS ATTACKERS! HIS LARGEST, MOST POWERFUL PUPPET!
MY GIANT, MENTALLY-CONTROLLED PUPPET WILL HOLD THEM OFF LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO MAKE MY GETAWAY-- WITH YOU AS MY HOSTAGE!
CAREFUL, THING! LOOK AT THAT!
TRY AS HE MIGHT TO BIND THE ROBOT WITH HIS ELASTIC BODY, MR. FANTASTIC TAKES A TERRIFIC PUMMELING FROM THE MINDLESS MONSTER!
I'VE GOTTA HELP 'IM!
BAM! BAM!
15

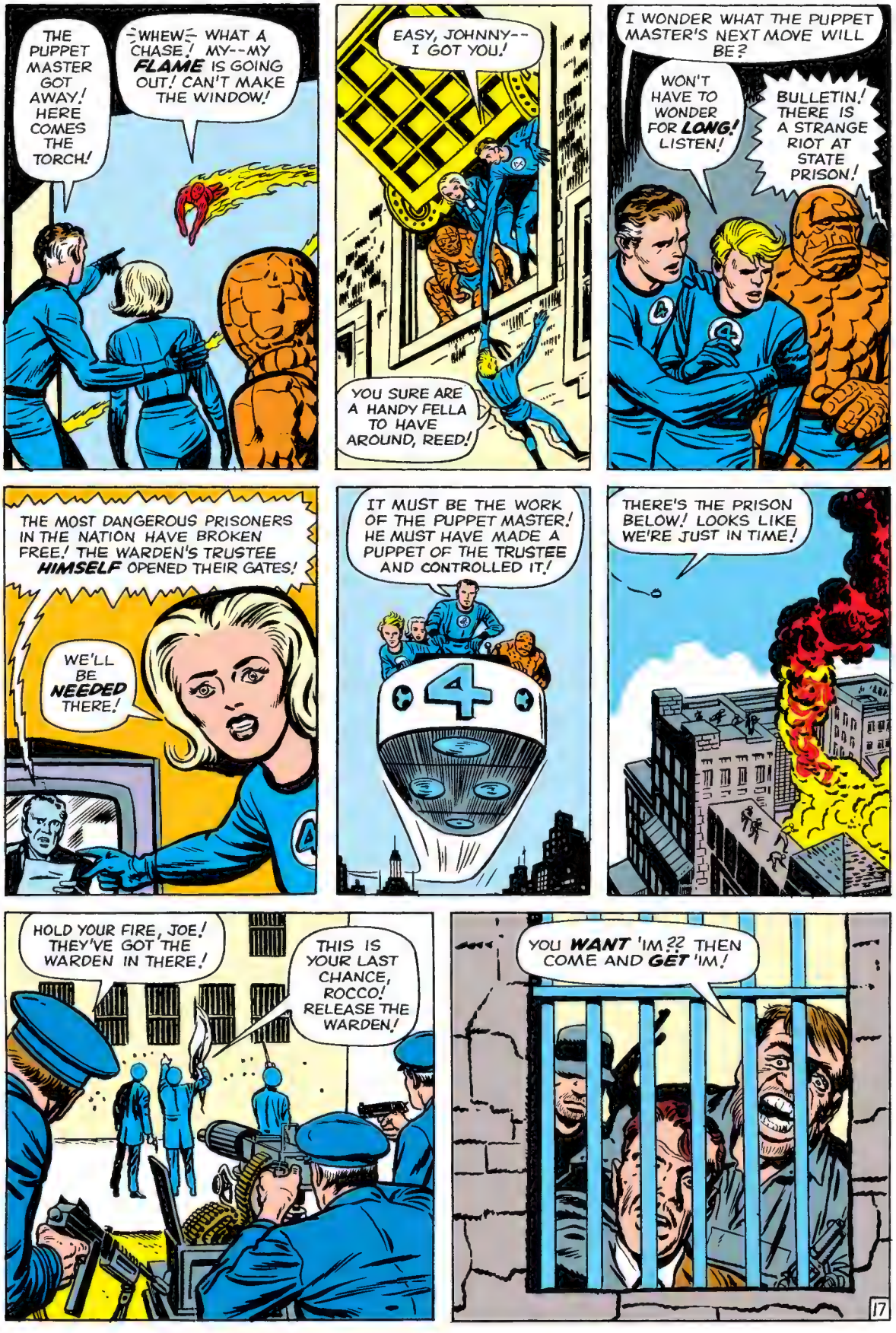

TRY TO GIVE ME A BEAR HUG, WILL YA? WELL, HERE'S SOMETHIN' YOU AIN'T GONNA LIKE!
POW
GOOD WORK, THING! I CAN SEE YOU DON'T NEED ANY HELP FROM ME!
I NEVER DID, HOT-STUFF!


SUDDENLY, THE TORCH FLAMES OFF AS HE EXCLAIMS...
HEY! WHERE'S THE PUPPET MASTER?? AND SUE??

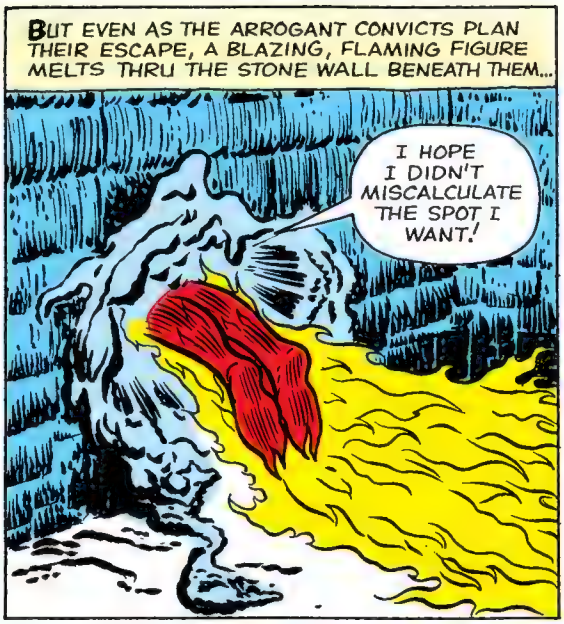

BUT THE AMAZING THREESOME ARRIVE SCANT SECONDS TOO LATE...
HAH! EVEN YOU CANNOT CATCH MY WINGED FLYING HORSE--MY GREATEST PUPPET OF ALL!


WHA--???
I WOULDN'T BET ON IT, MISTER!


BAH, TAKE THE GIRL! I HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR HER!
THE TORCH IS AFTER ME! BUT HE DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT MY FLYING STEED IS JET-POWERED!
I CAN'T GET NEAR 'IM! HE'S TOO FAST FOR ME!


THE PUPPET MASTER GOT AWAY! HERE COMES THE TORCH!
WHEW! WHAT A CHASE! MY--MY FLAME IS GOING OUT! CAN'T MAKE THE WINDOW!
EASY, JOHNNY-- I GOT YOU!
YOU SURE ARE A HANDY FELLA TO HAVE AROUND, REED!
I WONDER WHAT THE PUPPET MASTER'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE?
WON'T HAVE TO WONDER FOR LONG! LISTEN!
BULLETIN! THERE IS A STRANGE RIOT AT STATE PRISON!
THE MOST DANGEROUS PRISONERS IN THE NATION HAVE BROKEN FREE! THE WARDEN'S TRUSTEE HIMSELF OPENED THEIR GATES!
WE'LL BE NEEDED THERE!
IT MUST BE THE WORK OF THE PUPPET MASTER! HE MUST HAVE MADE A PUPPET OF THE TRUSTEE AND CONTROLLED IT!
THERE'S THE PRISON BELOW! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE JUST IN TIME!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, JOE! THEY'VE GOT THE WARDEN IN THERE!
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, ROCCO! RELEASE THE WARDEN!
YOU WANT 'IM?? THEN COME AND GET 'IM!

LISTEN, YOU GUYS! AS LONG AS WE GOT THE WARDEN HERE, WE GOT NOTHIN TO WORRY ABOUT! SO LET'S TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF HIM, HEAR???


BUT EVEN AS THE ARROGANT CONVICTS PLAN THEIR ESCAPE, A BLAZING, FLAMING FIGURE MELTS THRU THE STONE WALL BENEATH THEM...
I HOPE I DIDN'T MISCALCULATE THE SPOT I WANT!

LIKE A FIERY AVENGER, HE SCORCHES THE EARTH AHEAD OF HIM, AS THE INTENSE HEAT OF HIS BODY PROPELS HIM FORWARD, UNTIL...
I'M RIGHT UNDER THEM NOW! I CAN HEAR THEIR VOICES!

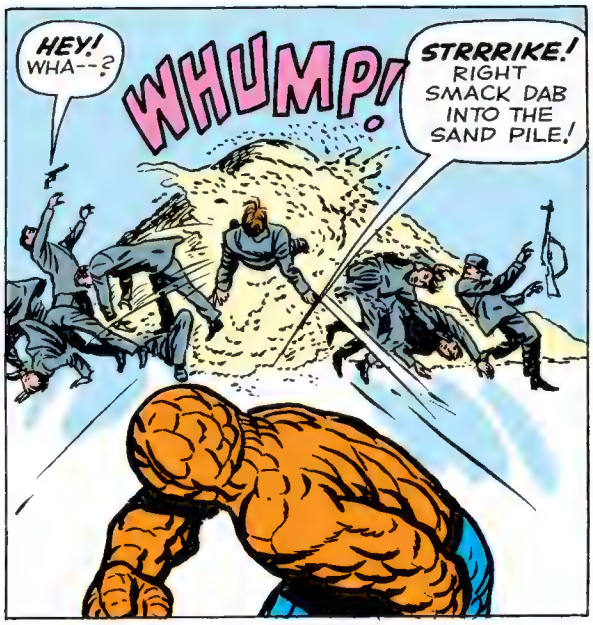
GOT YOU!
IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!
HE GRABBED THE WARDEN!

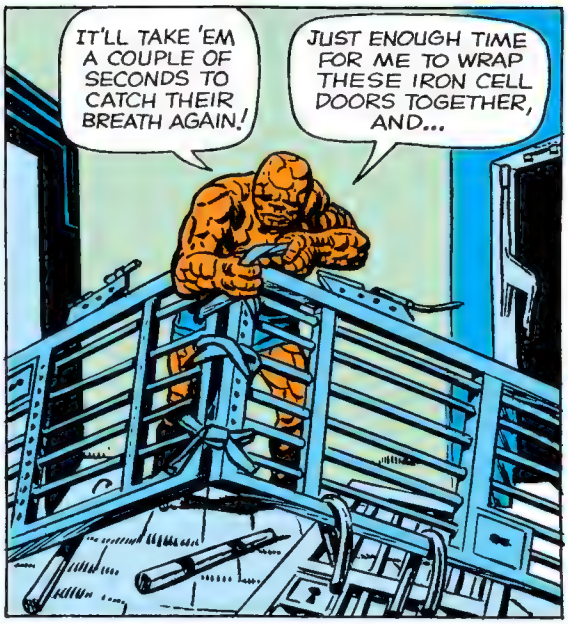
YOU'RE SAFE AT LAST, WARDEN!
AND THAT MEANS MY PARTNERS CAN REALLY GO INTO ACTION NOW!

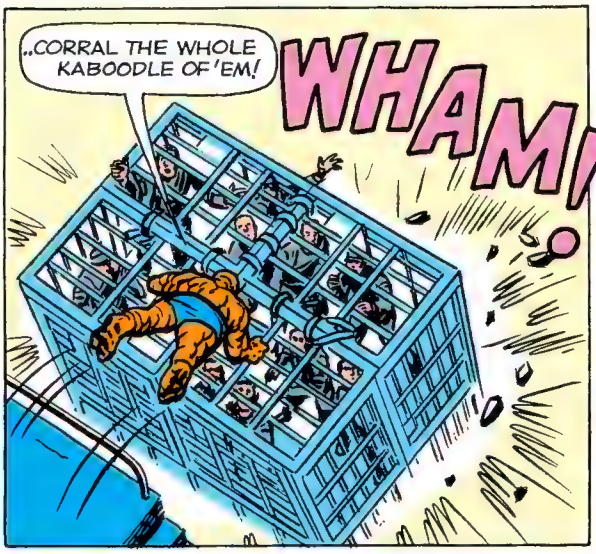
LET'S GO, GUYS! WE CAN STILL SHOOT OUR WAY OUTTA HERE!
SURE! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A WALKIN' MATCHSTICK TO STOP US!

WAIT, THING! WHERE ARE YOU GOING??
I'M GONNA GRAB ME A LITTLE BIT OF THE ACTION, PAL! LIKE WOW!

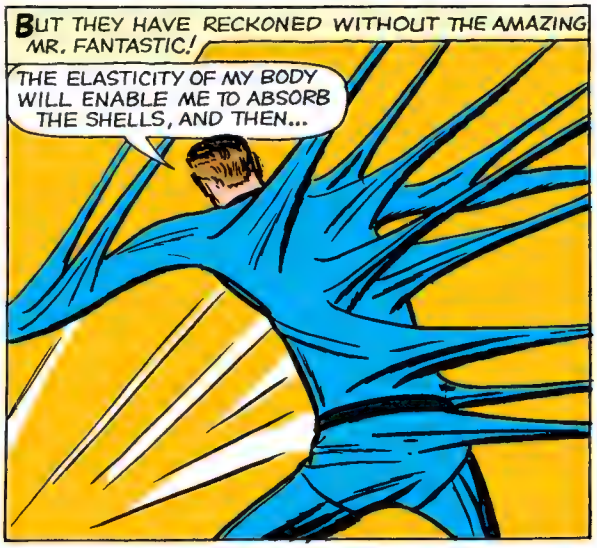
FANTASTIC FOUR in
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
DEATH OF A PUPPET!
PART 5
HEY! THE WALL'S CAVIN' IN!
THING! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST WATCH AND SEE, PAL!
SUFFERIN' SNAKES-- WHAT'S THAT??!
V-950
HEY-- DON'T! LEGGO!
S'MATTER? YA WANT OUT, DON'T YA?
HERE! HAVE A FREE RIDE, COMPLIMENTS OF THE THING!
GANGWAY!
19

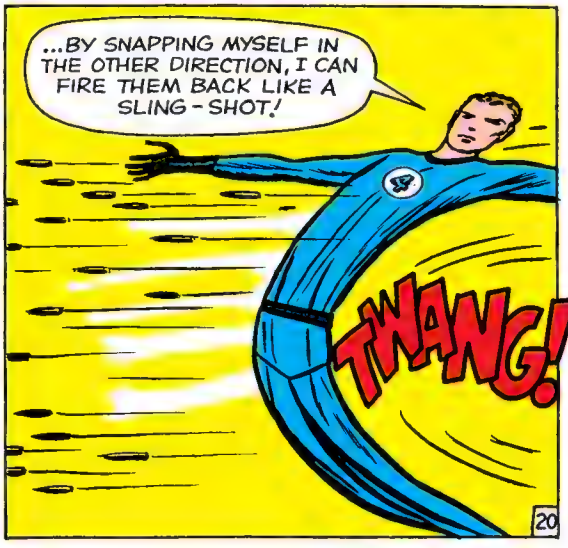

HEY! WHA--?
WHUMP!
STRRRIKE! RIGHT SMACK DAB INTO THE SAND PILE!


IT'LL TAKE 'EM A COUPLE OF SECONDS TO CATCH THEIR BREATH AGAIN!
JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO WRAP THESE IRON CELL DOORS TOGETHER, AND...

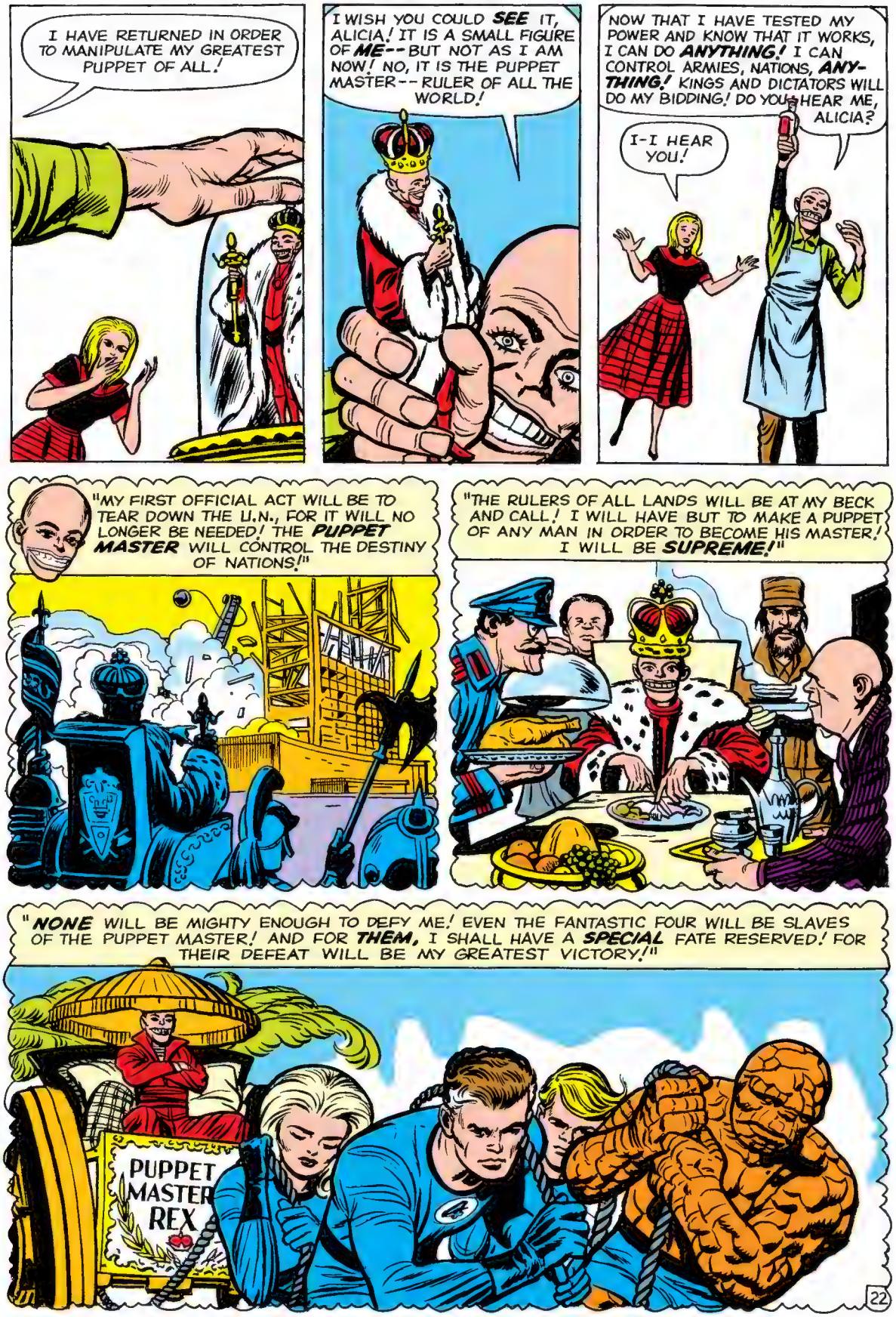

..CORRAL THE WHOLE KABOODLE OF 'EM!
WHAM!

BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE THING, THERE ARE STILL OTHER FREED CONVICTS WHO HAVE SEIZED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS!
LET'S GET THAT BIG FREAK AND MOW 'IM DOWN!
YEAH!

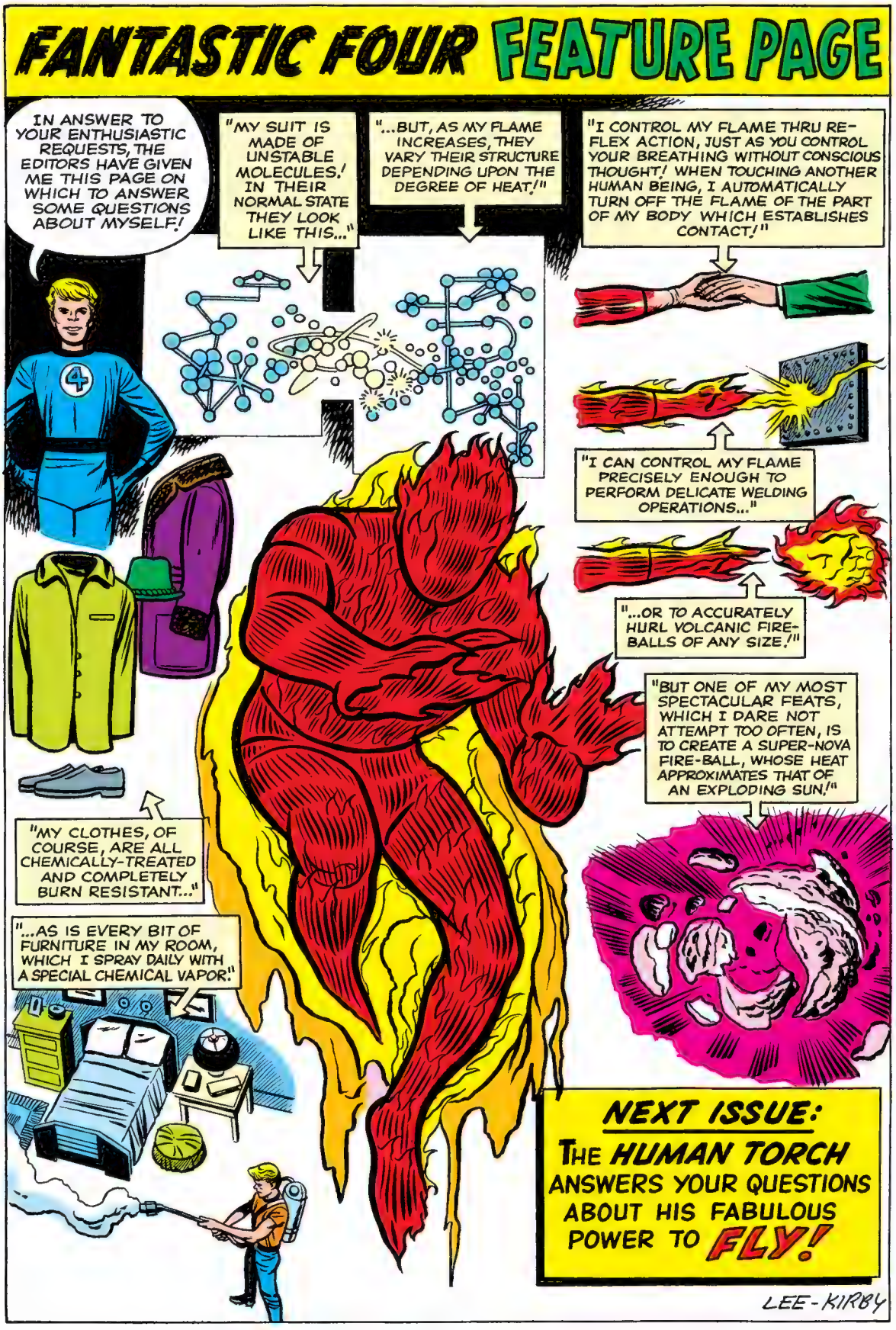

BUT THEY HAVE RECKONED WITHOUT THE AMAZING MR. FANTASTIC!
THE ELASTICITY OF MY BODY WILL ENABLE ME TO ABSORB THE SHELLS, AND THEN...


...BY SNAPPING MYSELF IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, I CAN FIRE THEM BACK LIKE A SLING-SHOT!
TWANG!

GIT DOWN! HE'S SHOOTIN' OUR OWN BULLETS RIGHT BACK AT US!
-GASP- YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, BROTHER!
NOW THEN, GENTS, IF YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY, I'LL JUST RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR WEAPONS BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS HURT!
AND I'LL GROUP THEM ALL IN LITTLE CIRCLES OF FLAME WHERE THEY'LL BE SNUG AND WARM UNTIL THE GUARDS CAN ROUND 'EM UP!
OVER HERE, TORCH! I'VE GOT A STRAY FOR YOU!
A FLOATIN' GUN! A VOICE FROM NOWHERE! TAKE ME TO MY CELL BEFORE I GO BATTY!
NO LONGER UNDER THE PUPPET MASTER'S INFLUENCE, THE WARDEN DIRECTS THE MOPPING-UP OPERATION...
THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM, WARDEN!
THANKS TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR! NOW BACK TO THE CELLS WITH THEM!
MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY ROOM, HIDDEN AWAY IN THE CANYONS OF THE METROPOLIS, A TEARFUL GIRL STARES OUT OF A WINDOW WITH SIGHTLESS EYES...
I NEVER KNEW! I NEVER SUSPECTED WHAT A MENACE MY STEP-FATHER WAS! WHAT IF HE SHOULD RETURN--AND EXPECT ME TO HELP WITH HIS FUTURE PLANS???
AT THAT MOMENT, AS IF IN ANSWER TO HER SILENT THOUGHT...
GOOD EVENING, MY DEAR!
21


I HAVE RETURNED IN ORDER TO MANIPULATE MY GREATEST PUPPET OF ALL!
I WISH YOU COULD SEE IT, ALICIA! IT IS A SMALL FIGURE OF ME--BUT NOT AS I AM NOW! NO, IT IS THE PUPPET MASTER--RULER OF ALL THE WORLD!
NOW THAT I HAVE TESTED MY POWER AND KNOW THAT IT WORKS, I CAN DO ANYTHING! I CAN CONTROL ARMIES, NATIONS, ANYTHING! KINGS AND DICTATORS WILL DO MY BIDDING! DO YOU HEAR ME, ALICIA?
I-I HEAR YOU!
"MY FIRST OFFICIAL ACT WILL BE TO TEAR DOWN THE U.N., FOR IT WILL NO LONGER BE NEEDED! THE PUPPET MASTER WILL CONTROL THE DESTINY OF NATIONS!"
"THE RULERS OF ALL LANDS WILL BE AT MY BECK AND CALL! I WILL HAVE BUT TO MAKE A PUPPET OF ANY MAN IN ORDER TO BECOME HIS MASTER! I WILL BE SUPREME!"
"NONE WILL BE MIGHTY ENOUGH TO DEFY ME! EVEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL BE SLAVES OF THE PUPPET MASTER! AND FOR THEM, I SHALL HAVE A SPECIAL FATE RESERVED! FOR THEIR DEFEAT WILL BE MY GREATEST VICTORY!"
PUPPET MASTER REX
4
22

NO! I WILL LISTEN TO NO MORE! IT IS WRONG! IT IS MADNESS! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT--
RIGHT?? YOU SPEAK TO ME OF RIGHT! I AM THE PUPPET MASTER!
FOLLOWING THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE, THE GIRL REACHES OUT...
NO MAN SHOULD EVER HAVE SO MUCH POWER!
YOU FOOL! LET GO OF MY ARM!
SUDDENLY, ALICIA SLIPS, AND THE PUPPET FALLS!
OH!
MY PUPPET!
IT FELL NEAR HERE!
IF ONLY I CAN REACH IT...
IN HIS FRANTIC HASTE TO SEIZE THE PUPPET BEFORE THE GIRL, THE PUPPET MASTER STUMBLES OVER HER OUT-STRETCHED HAND, AND...
WHA-?
AHHHHHH
SECONDS LATER, THE FANTASTIC FOUR BURST INTO THE APARTMENT TO FIND...
THE WINDOW! HE FELL THRU THE WINDOW!
WE SAW HIM DOWN BELOW!
DON'T CRY, ALICIA!
EVERY-THING'LL BE OKAY NOW, KID! I SWEAR IT!
WHAT HAPPENED, REED? WHAT MADE THE PUPPET MASTER FALL?
I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER REALLY KNOW?
THE END
23


FANTASTIC FOUR FEATURE PAGE
IN ANSWER TO YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC REQUESTS, THE EDITORS HAVE GIVEN ME THIS PAGE ON WHICH TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT MYSELF!
"MY SUIT IS MADE OF UNSTABLE MOLECULES! IN THEIR NORMAL STATE THEY LOOK LIKE THIS..."
"...BUT, AS MY FLAME INCREASES, THEY VARY THEIR STRUCTURE DEPENDING UPON THE DEGREE OF HEAT!"
"I CONTROL MY FLAME THRU REFLEX ACTION, JUST AS YOU CONTROL YOUR BREATHING WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT! WHEN TOUCHING ANOTHER HUMAN BEING, I AUTOMATICALLY TURN OFF THE FLAME OF THE PART OF MY BODY WHICH ESTABLISHES CONTACT!"
"I CAN CONTROL MY FLAME PRECISELY ENOUGH TO PERFORM DELICATE WELDING OPERATIONS..."
"...OR TO ACCURATELY HURL VOLCANIC FIRE-BALLS OF ANY SIZE!"
"BUT ONE OF MY MOST SPECTACULAR FEATS, WHICH I DARE NOT ATTEMPT TOO OFTEN, IS TO CREATE A SUPER-NOVA FIRE-BALL, WHOSE HEAT APPROXIMATES THAT OF AN EXPLODING SUN!"
"MY CLOTHES, OF COURSE, ARE ALL CHEMICALLY-TREATED AND COMPLETELY BURN RESISTANT..."
"...AS IS EVERY BIT OF FURNITURE IN MY ROOM, WHICH I SPRAY DAILY WITH A SPECIAL CHEMICAL VAPOR!"
NEXT ISSUE:
THE HUMAN TORCH ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS FABULOUS POWER TO FLY!
LEE-KIRBY

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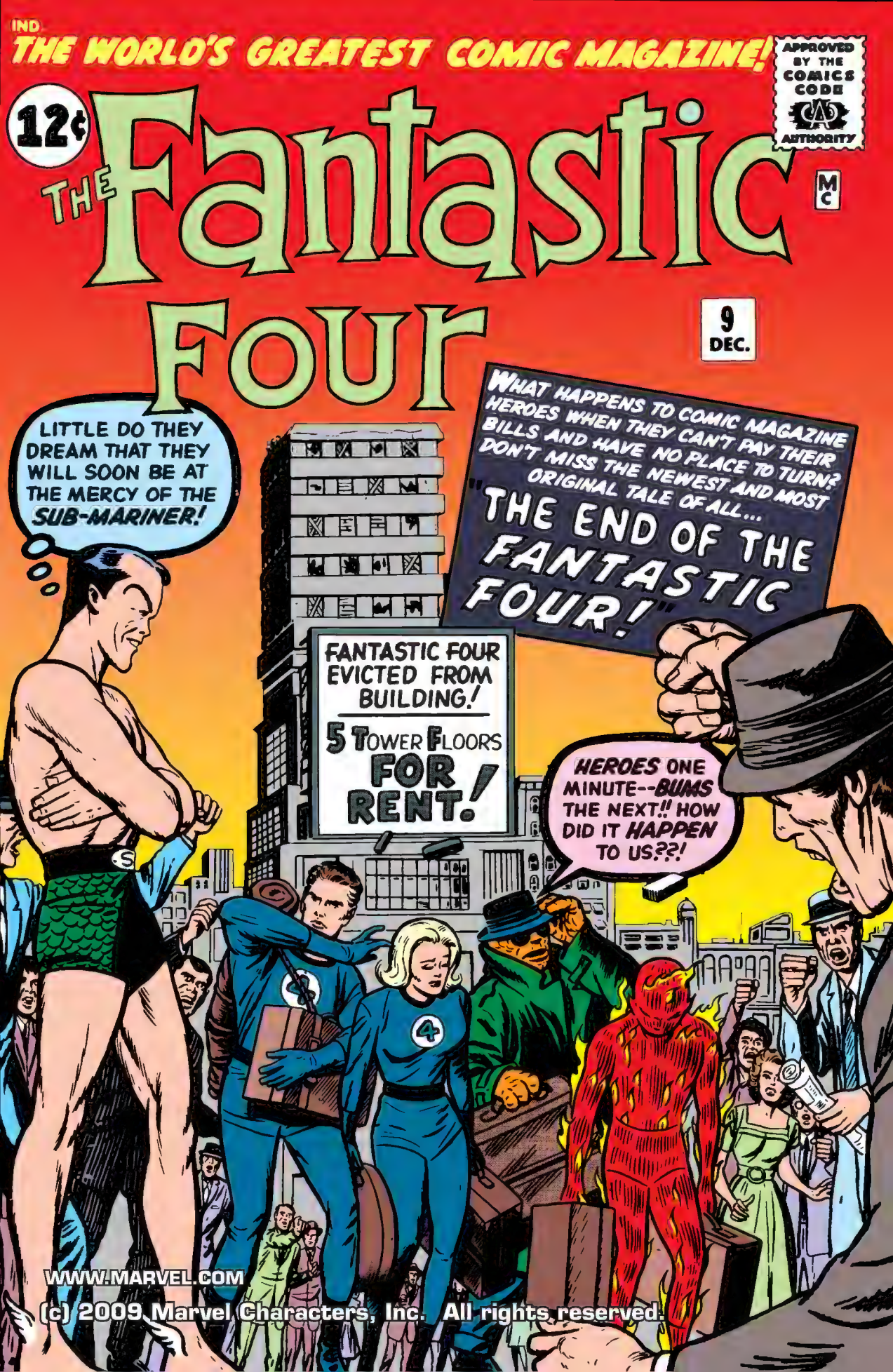
IND
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
THE Fantastic Four
MC
9 DEC.
LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT THEY WILL SOON BE AT THE MERCY OF THE SUB-MARINER!
WHAT HAPPENS TO COMIC MAGAZINE HEROES WHEN THEY CAN'T PAY THEIR BILLS AND HAVE NO PLACE TO TURN? DON'T MISS THE NEWEST AND MOST ORIGINAL TALE OF ALL... "THE END OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!"
FANTASTIC FOUR EVICTED FROM BUILDING!
5 TOWER FLOORS FOR RENT!
HEROES ONE MINUTE--BUMS THE NEXT!! HOW DID IT HAPPEN TO US??!
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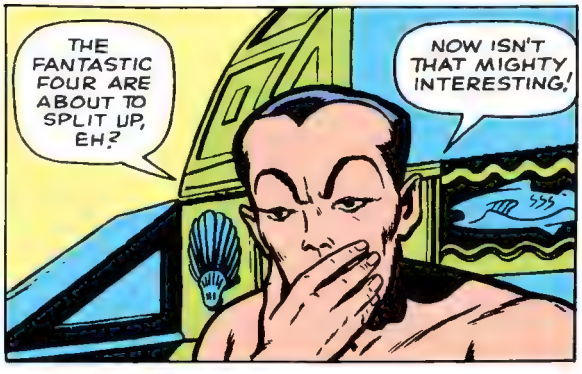
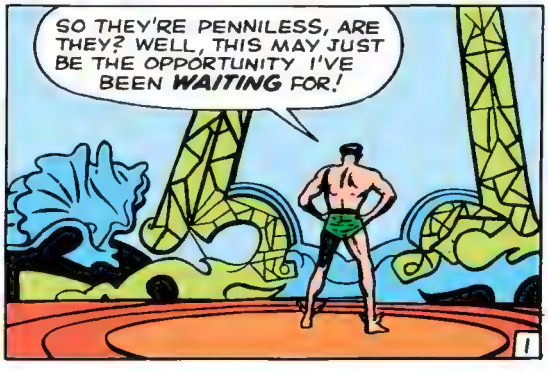
THE END OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

IN A HIDDEN CHAMBER, FAR UNDER THE SEA, PRINCE NAMOR, THE AMAZING SUB-MARINER TUNES INTO A TV NEWSCAST FROM THE SURFACE WORLD, AND HEARS A STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT...
BULLETIN! THE WORLD-FAMOUS FANTASTIC FOUR ARE BANKRUPT! THEY HAVE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO DISSOLVE THEIR PARTNERSHIP AND SELL ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS IN ORDER TO PAY THEIR DEBTS!
WHAT'S THAT??
V-995
SCRIPT.... STAN LEE
ART..... JACK KIRBY
INKING.... DICK AYERS
LETTERING.. ART SIMEK





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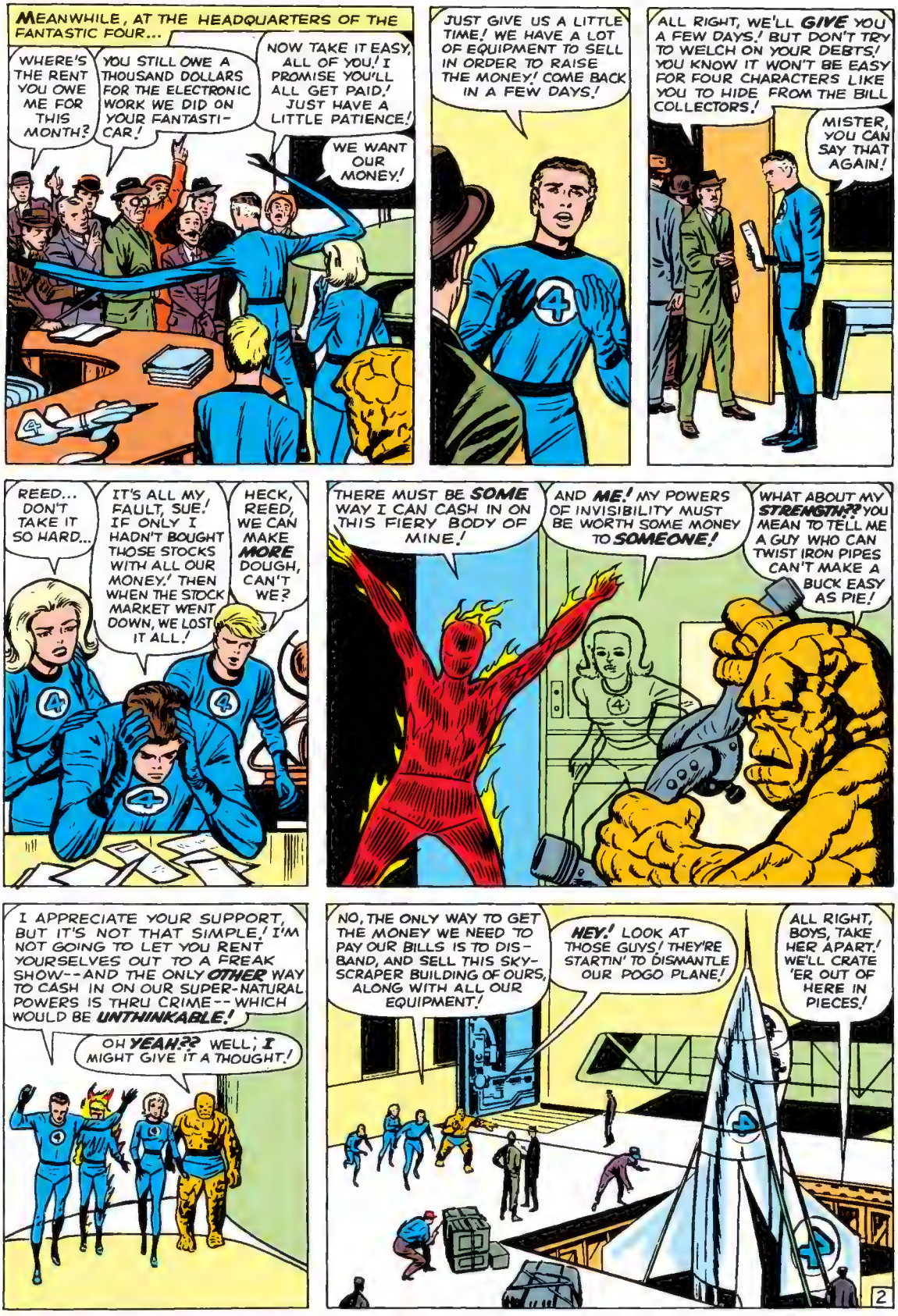
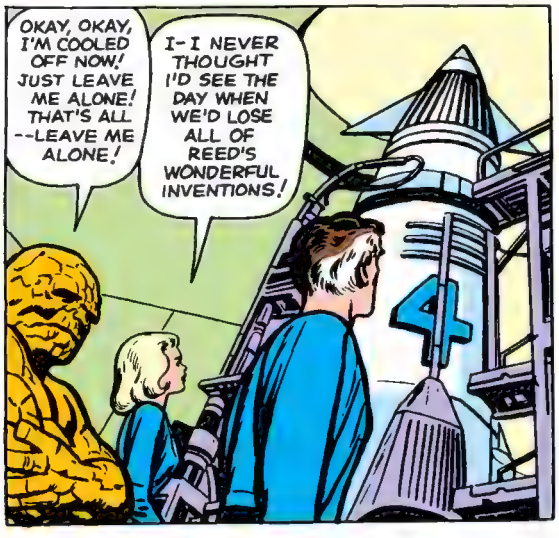
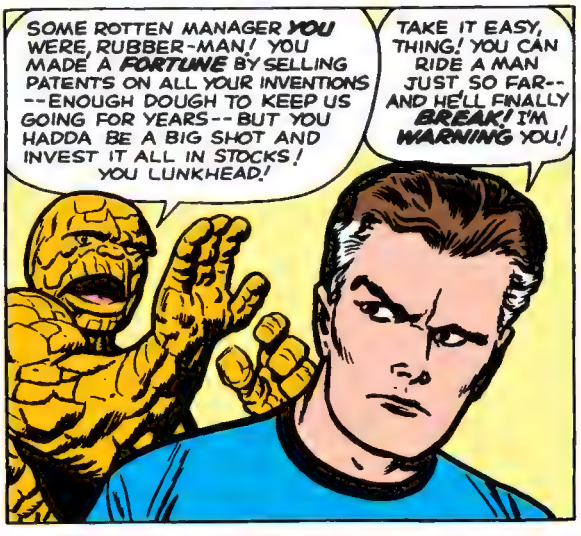

MEANWHILE, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
WHERE'S THE RENT YOU OWE ME FOR THIS MONTH?
YOU STILL OWE A THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE ELECTRONIC WORK WE DID ON YOUR FANTASTI-CAR!
NOW TAKE IT EASY, ALL OF YOU! I PROMISE YOU'LL ALL GET PAID! JUST HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE!
WE WANT OUR MONEY!
JUST GIVE US A LITTLE TIME! WE HAVE A LOT OF EQUIPMENT TO SELL IN ORDER TO RAISE THE MONEY! COME BACK IN A FEW DAYS!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL GIVE YOU A FEW DAYS! BUT DON'T TRY TO WELCH ON YOUR DEBTS! YOU KNOW IT WON'T BE EASY FOR FOUR CHARACTERS LIKE YOU TO HIDE FROM THE BILL COLLECTORS!
MISTER, YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
REED... DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, SUE! IF ONLY I HADN'T BOUGHT THOSE STOCKS WITH ALL OUR MONEY! THEN WHEN THE STOCK MARKET WENT DOWN, WE LOST IT ALL!
HECK, REED, WE CAN MAKE MORE DOUGH, CAN'T WE?
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN CASH IN ON THIS FIERY BODY OF MINE!
AND ME! MY POWERS OF INVISIBILITY MUST BE WORTH SOME MONEY TO SOMEONE!
WHAT ABOUT MY STRENGTH?? YOU MEAN TO TELL ME A GUY WHO CAN TWIST IRON PIPES CAN'T MAKE A BUCK EASY AS PIE!
I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT, BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU RENT YOURSELVES OUT TO A FREAK SHOW--AND THE ONLY OTHER WAY TO CASH IN ON OUR SUPER-NATURAL POWERS IS THRU CRIME--WHICH WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE!
OH YEAH?? WELL, I MIGHT GIVE IT A THOUGHT!
NO, THE ONLY WAY TO GET THE MONEY WE NEED TO PAY OUR BILLS IS TO DISBAND, AND SELL THIS SKY-SCRAPER BUILDING OF OURS, ALONG WITH ALL OUR EQUIPMENT!
HEY! LOOK AT THOSE GUYS! THEY'RE STARTIN' TO DISMANTLE OUR POGO PLANE!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS, TAKE HER APART! WE'LL CRATE 'ER OUT OF HERE IN PIECES!
2

LEGGO OF MY PLANE, YOU CRUMBS! I OUGHTTA PULVERIZE YA FOR THAT!

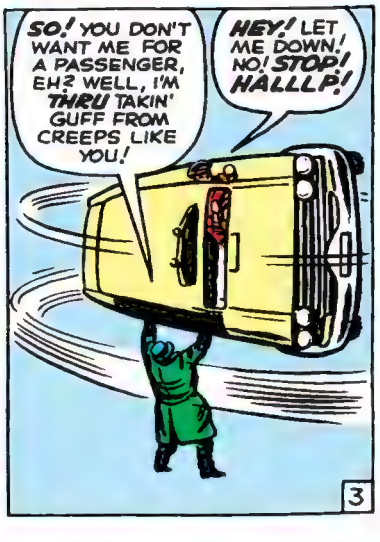
THING! KNOCK IT OFF! I SOLD THE PLANE TO THEM! I HAD TO! WE'RE GETTING A GOOD PRICE FOR IT!
NO PRICE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ALL THE WORK WE PUT INTO DESIGNIN' THAT SHIP!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, THING--BUT WE'VE GOTTA SELL THE PLANE--AND EVERYTHING ELSE, TOO!

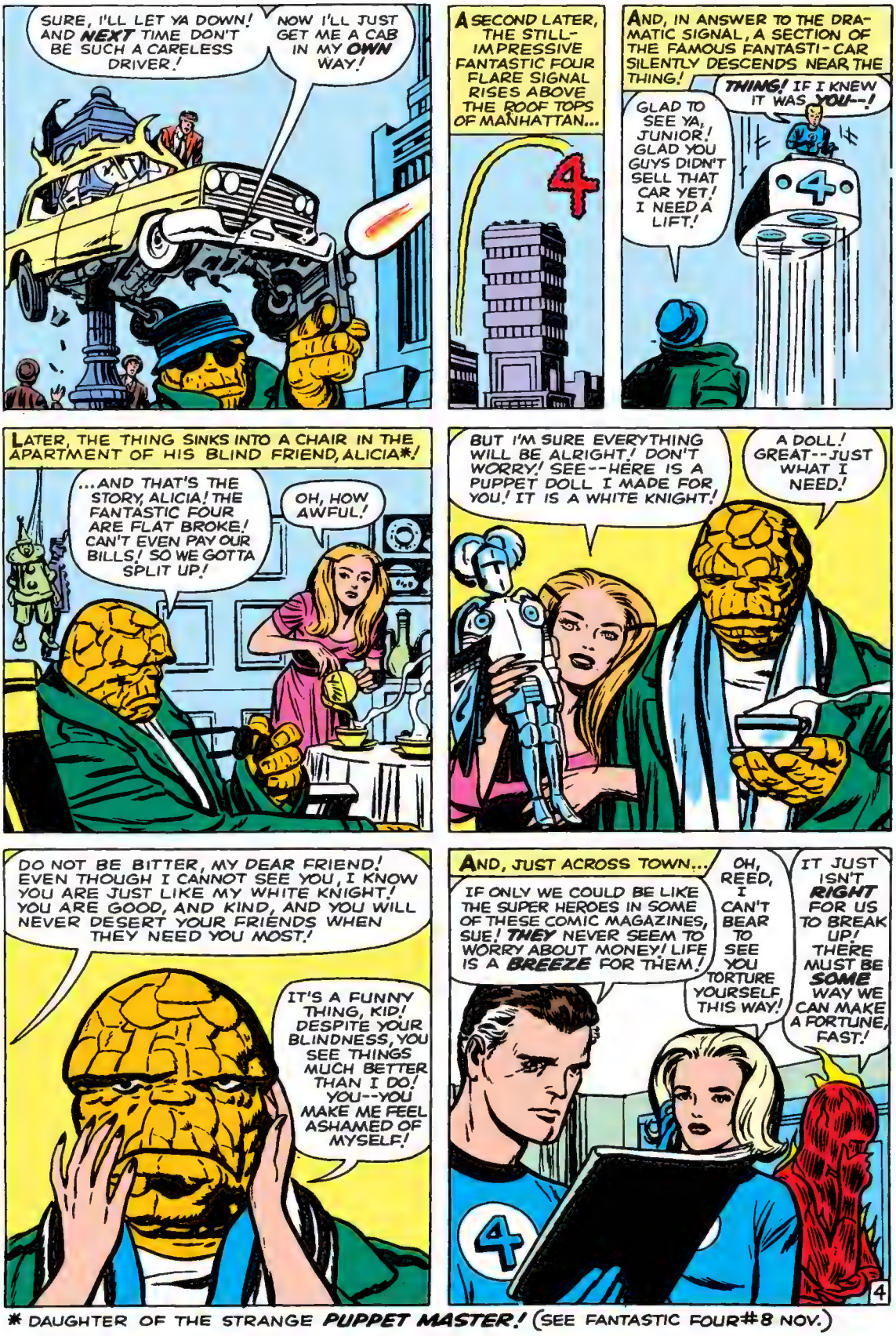

OKAY, OKAY, I'M COOLED OFF NOW! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! THAT'S ALL --LEAVE ME ALONE!
I-I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN WE'D LOSE ALL OF REED'S WONDERFUL INVENTIONS!
4


SOME ROTTEN MANAGER YOU WERE, RUBBER-MAN! YOU MADE A FORTUNE BY SELLING PATENTS ON ALL YOUR INVENTIONS --ENOUGH DOUGH TO KEEP US GOING FOR YEARS-- BUT YOU HADDA BE A BIG SHOT AND INVEST IT ALL IN STOCKS! YOU LUNKHEAD!
TAKE IT EASY, THING! YOU CAN RIDE A MAN JUST SO FAR-- AND HE'LL FINALLY BREAK! I'M WARNING YOU!

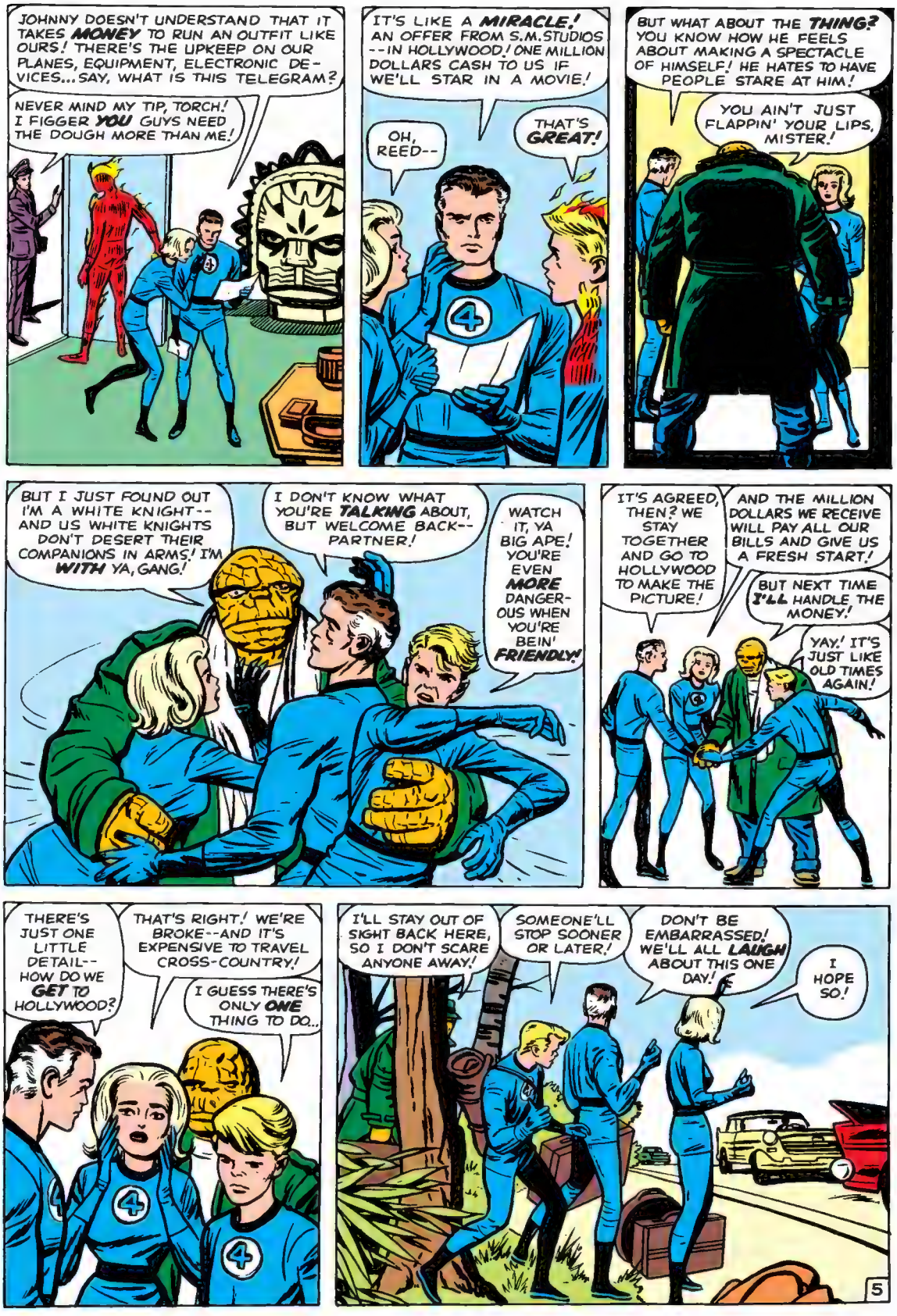
BAH! MAYBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY! THOSE THREE DO-GOODERS WERE BEGINNIN' TO CRAMP MY STYLE! I CAN PROBABLY MAKE OUT BETTER ON MY OWN! TAXI! HEY, TAXI!
BAXTER B NG

SAY, YOU'RE THE THING, AIN'T YOU? SORRY, PAL, YOU AIN'T RIDIN' THIS CAB! I HEARD HOW THE FOUR OF YOU ARE FLAT BROKE! I DON'T WANNA BE HUNG UP FOR NO TAXI BILL!

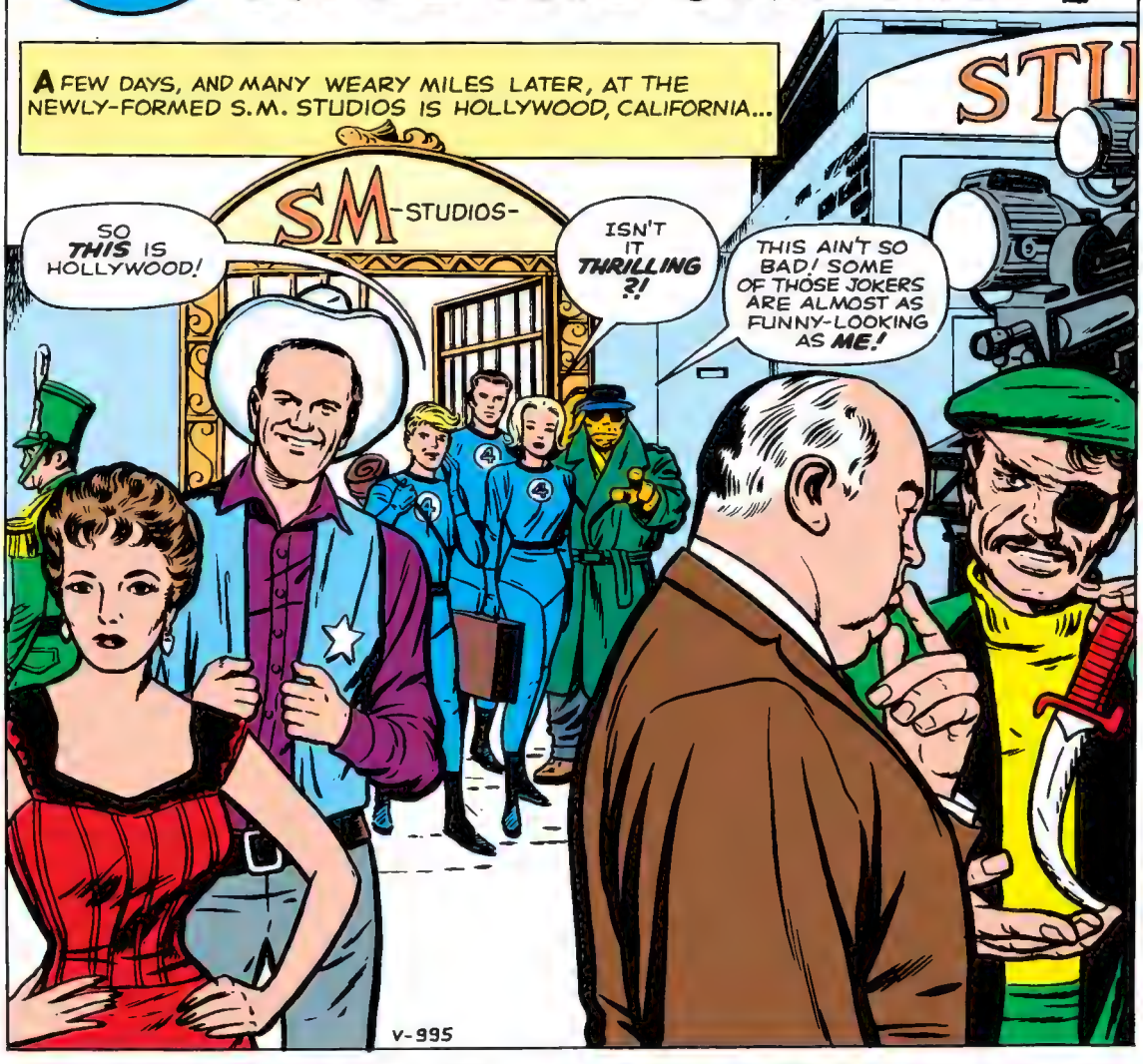

SO! YOU DON'T WANT ME FOR A PASSENGER, EH? WELL, I'M THRU TAKIN' GUFF FROM CREEPS LIKE YOU!
HEY! LET ME DOWN! NO! STOP! HALLP!


SURE, I'LL LET YA DOWN! AND NEXT TIME DON'T BE SUCH A CARELESS DRIVER!
NOW I'LL JUST GET ME A CAB IN MY OWN WAY!
A SECOND LATER, THE STILL-IMPRESSIVE FANTASTIC FOUR FLARE SIGNAL RISES ABOVE THE ROOF TOPS OF MANHATTAN...
AND, IN ANSWER TO THE DRAMATIC SIGNAL, A SECTION OF THE FAMOUS FANTASTI-CAR SILENTLY DESCENDS NEAR THE THING!
THING! IF I KNEW IT WAS YOU--!
GLAD TO SEE YA, JUNIOR! GLAD YOU GUYS DIDN'T SELL THAT CAR YET! I NEED A LIFT!
LATER, THE THING SINKS INTO A CHAIR IN THE APARTMENT OF HIS BLIND FRIEND, ALICIA*!
...AND THAT'S THE STORY, ALICIA! THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE FLAT BROKE! CAN'T EVEN PAY OUR BILLS! SO WE GOTTA SPLIT UP!
OH, HOW AWFUL!
BUT I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT! DON'T WORRY! SEE--HERE IS A PUPPET DOLL I MADE FOR YOU! IT IS A WHITE KNIGHT!
A DOLL! GREAT--JUST WHAT I NEED!
DO NOT BE BITTER, MY DEAR FRIEND! EVEN THOUGH I CANNOT SEE YOU, I KNOW YOU ARE JUST LIKE MY WHITE KNIGHT! YOU ARE GOOD, AND KIND, AND YOU WILL NEVER DESERT YOUR FRIENDS WHEN THEY NEED YOU MOST!
IT'S A FUNNY THING, KID! DESPITE YOUR BLINDNESS, YOU SEE THINGS MUCH BETTER THAN I DO! YOU--YOU MAKE ME FEEL ASHAMED OF MYSELF!
AND, JUST ACROSS TOWN...
IF ONLY WE COULD BE LIKE THE SUPER HEROES IN SOME OF THESE COMIC MAGAZINES, SUE! THEY NEVER SEEM TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY! LIFE IS A BREEZE FOR THEM!
OH, REED, I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU TORTURE YOURSELF THIS WAY!
IT JUST ISN'T RIGHT FOR US TO BREAK UP! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY WE CAN MAKE A FORTUNE, FAST!
4

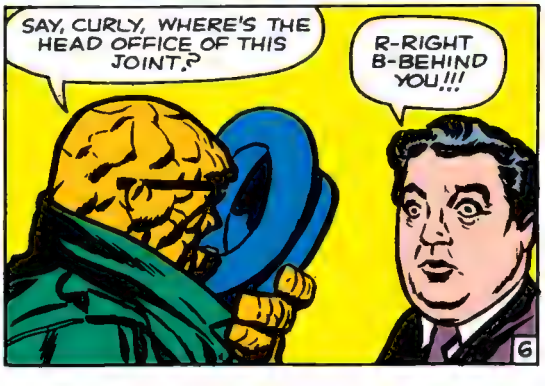
* DAUGHTER OF THE STRANGE **PUPPET MASTER!** (SEE FANTASTIC FOUR #8 NOV.)


JOHNNY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT IT TAKES MONEY TO RUN AN OUTFIT LIKE OURS! THERE'S THE UPKEEP ON OUR PLANES, EQUIPMENT, ELECTRONIC DEVICES... SAY, WHAT IS THIS TELEGRAM?
NEVER MIND MY TIP, TORCH! I FIGGER YOU GUYS NEED THE DOUGH MORE THAN ME!
IT'S LIKE A MIRACLE! AN OFFER FROM S.M. STUDIOS --IN HOLLYWOOD! ONE MILLION DOLLARS CASH TO US IF WE'LL STAR IN A MOVIE!
OH, REED--
THAT'S GREAT!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE THING? YOU KNOW HOW HE FEELS ABOUT MAKING A SPECTACLE OF HIMSELF! HE HATES TO HAVE PEOPLE STARE AT HIM!
YOU AIN'T JUST FLAPPIN' YOUR LIPS, MISTER!
BUT I JUST FOUND OUT I'M A WHITE KNIGHT-- AND US WHITE KNIGHTS DON'T DESERT THEIR COMPANIONS IN ARMS! I'M WITH YA, GANG!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT WELCOME BACK-- PARTNER!
WATCH IT, YA BIG APE! YOU'RE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS WHEN YOU'RE BEIN' FRIENDLY!
IT'S AGREED, THEN? WE STAY TOGETHER AND GO TO HOLLYWOOD TO MAKE THE PICTURE!
AND THE MILLION DOLLARS WE RECEIVE WILL PAY ALL OUR BILLS AND GIVE US A FRESH START!
BUT NEXT TIME I'LL HANDLE THE MONEY!
YAY! IT'S JUST LIKE OLD TIMES AGAIN!
THERE'S JUST ONE LITTLE DETAIL-- HOW DO WE GET TO HOLLYWOOD?
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE BROKE--AND IT'S EXPENSIVE TO TRAVEL CROSS-COUNTRY!
I GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
I'LL STAY OUT OF SIGHT BACK HERE, SO I DON'T SCARE ANYONE AWAY!
SOMEONE'LL STOP SOONER OR LATER!
DON'T BE EMBARRASSED! WE'LL ALL LAUGH ABOUT THIS ONE DAY!
I HOPE SO!
5

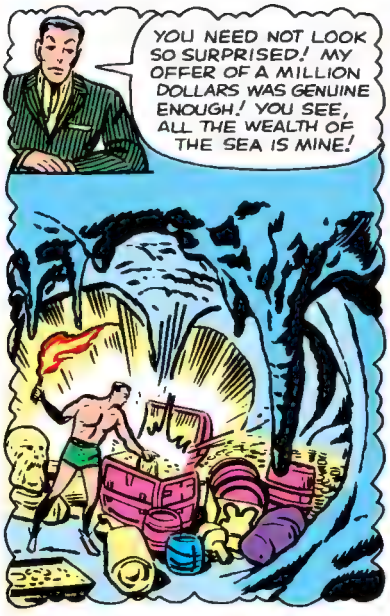
PART 2 SUB-MARINER GIVES THE ORDERS!


A FEW DAYS, AND MANY WEARY MILES LATER, AT THE NEWLY-FORMED S.M. STUDIOS IS HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA...
SM -STUDIOS-
SO THIS IS HOLLYWOOD!
ISN'T IT THRILLING ?!
THIS AIN'T SO BAD! SOME OF THOSE JOKERS ARE ALMOST AS FUNNY-LOOKING AS ME!
V-995

GOSH! WITH ALL THE CELEBRITIES AROUND HERE, NOBODY'S EVEN NOTICING US!
LET'S BE GLAD THEY AREN'T! NEXT THING FOR US TO DO IS FIND OUT WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO REPORT TO!

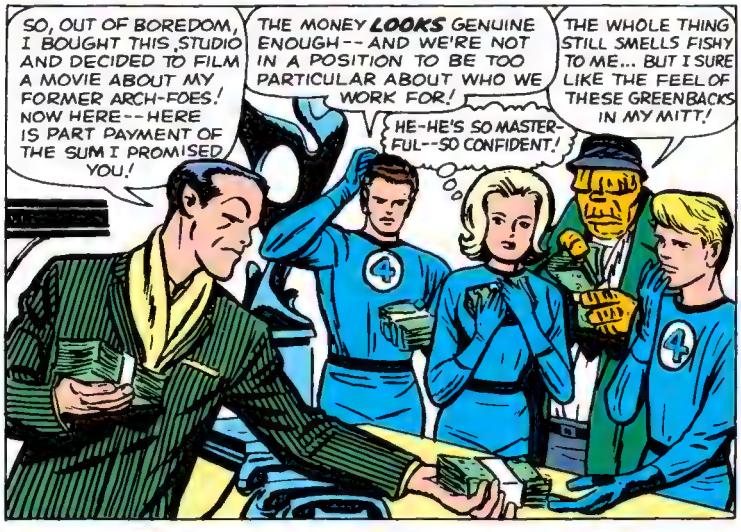


WHAT'S WRONG, JACK? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!
GHOST?? I'LL SETTLE FOR A GHOST ANY DAY! WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS--WHAT WAS THAT???!
FOLLOW ME, WONDER BOY! THE HEAD OFFICE IS OVER THERE!
WE'RE THE FANTASTIC FOUR! WE WERE ASKED TO REPORT HERE FOR A MOVIE!
NATURALLY! PLEASE STEP INSIDE!
WOW! IF THE RECEPTIONISTS LOOK THAT GOOD, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE STARS!
THAT MUST BE THE PRODUCER, OVER THERE! I'LL TAP HIM ON THE SHOULDER!
MAN! WHAT A LAYOUT! I'LL FLAME ON, TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON 'IM!
CALL THIS AN OFFICE?? IT'S MORE LIKE A FOOTBALL FIELD!
BUT THE PRODUCER CONTINUES TO STARE OUT OF THE WINDOW, AS THOUGH UNAWARE OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, UNTIL...
EXCUSE ME, BUT I THINK YOU WERE EXPECTING US!
AND THEN, SLOWLY, CALMLY, HE TURNS, AND...
LOOK!
HOLY COW!
YOU!
IT'S THE SUB-MARINER!!
AT YOUR SERVICE!

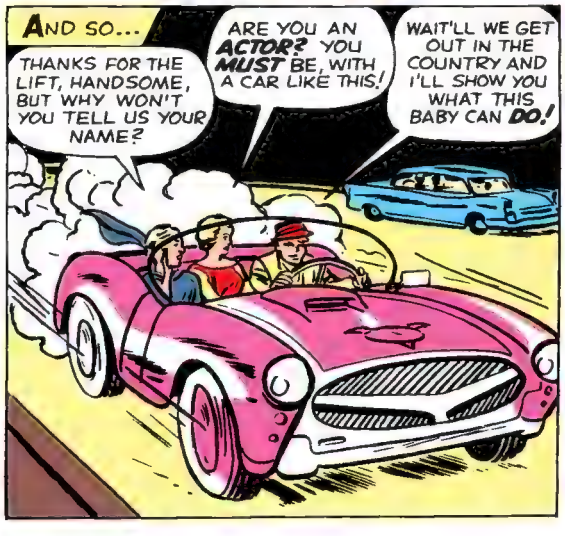

YOU NEED NOT LOOK SO SURPRISED! MY OFFER OF A MILLION DOLLARS WAS GENUINE ENOUGH! YOU SEE, ALL THE WEALTH OF THE SEA IS MINE!

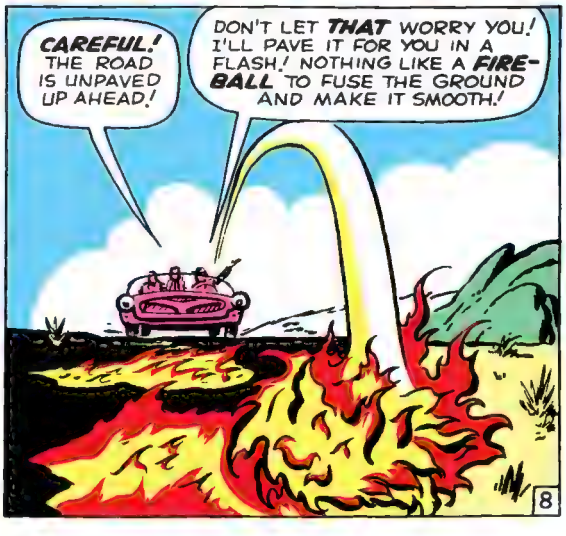
"FOR YEARS, I HAVE COLLECTED TREASURE FROM WRECKED SUNKEN SHIPS--PIRATE GALLEONS AND OTHERS CARRYING ALL SORTS OF PRICELESS CARGO!"

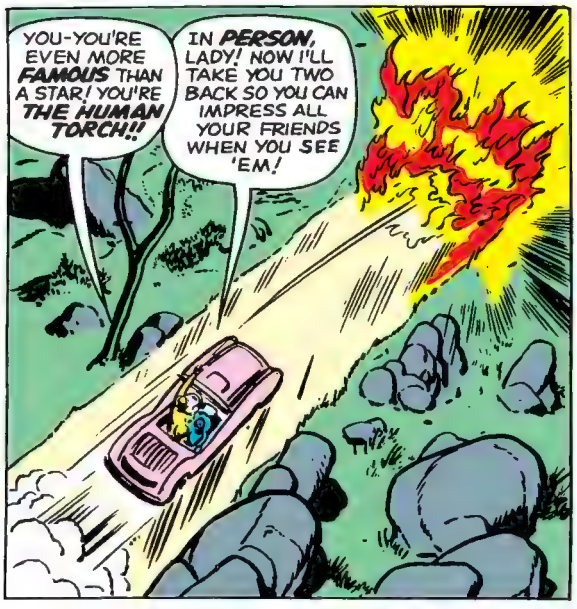
"AGES AGO, MY ANCESTORS WITNESSED THE BURYING OF COUNTLESS HORDES OF STOLEN TREASURE... AND EACH GENERATION OF UNDER-SEA PEOPLE HANDED THE LOCATIONS DOWN TO EACH FOLLOWING GENERATION!"

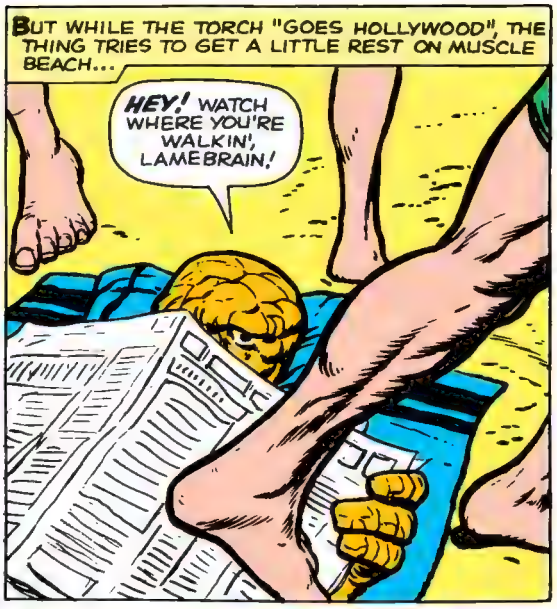

SO, OUT OF BOREDOM, I BOUGHT THIS STUDIO AND DECIDED TO FILM A MOVIE ABOUT MY FORMER ARCH-FOES! NOW HERE--HERE IS PART PAYMENT OF THE SUM I PROMISED YOU!
THE MONEY LOOKS GENUINE ENOUGH--AND WE'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO BE TOO PARTICULAR ABOUT WHO WE WORK FOR!
HE-HE'S SO MASTERFUL--SO CONFIDENT!
THE WHOLE THING STILL SMELLS FISHY TO ME... BUT I SURE LIKE THE FEEL OF THESE GREENBACKS IN MY MITT!

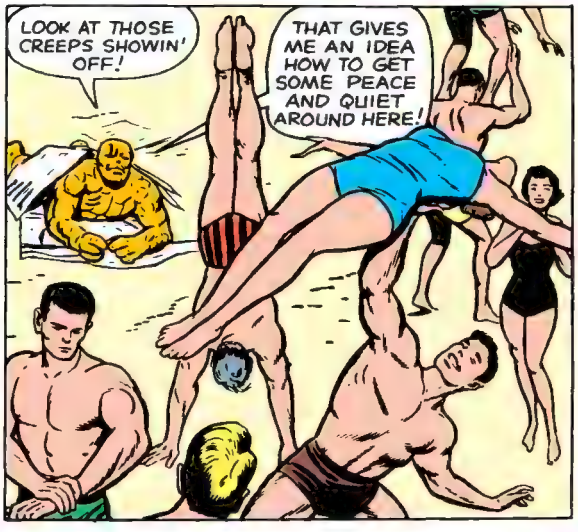
A SHORT TIME LATER...
NAMOR SAID WE WERE TO REPORT FOR WORK MONDAY, WHICH GIVES US TIME TO MAKE OURSELVES LOOK A BIT MORE PRESENTABLE!
FIRST THING I'M DOIN' WITH MY DOUGH IS BUYIN' A SNAZZY SPORTS CAR!

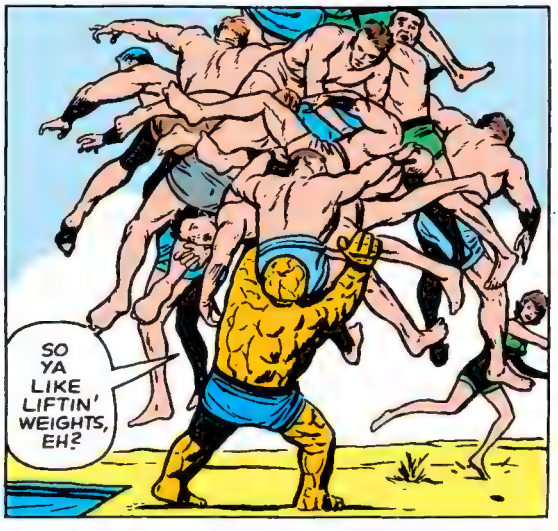

AND SO...
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, HANDSOME, BUT WHY WON'T YOU TELL US YOUR NAME?
ARE YOU AN ACTOR? YOU MUST BE, WITH A CAR LIKE THIS!
WAIT'LL WE GET OUT IN THE COUNTRY AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT THIS BABY CAN DO!

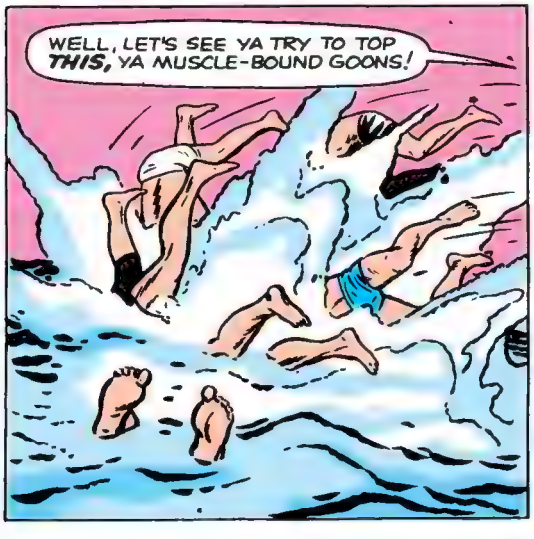

CAREFUL! THE ROAD IS UNPAVED UP AHEAD!
DON'T LET THAT WORRY YOU! I'LL PAVE IT FOR YOU IN A FLASH! NOTHING LIKE A FIREBALL TO FUSE THE GROUND AND MAKE IT SMOOTH!

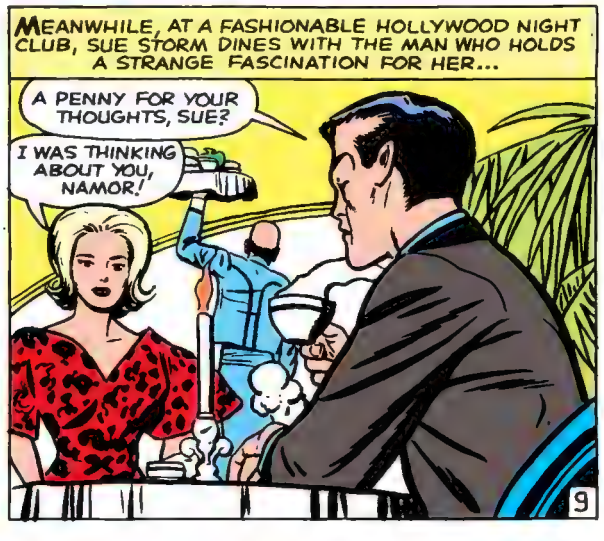

YOU-YOU'RE EVEN MORE FAMOUS THAN A STAR! YOU'RE THE HUMAN TORCH!!
IN PERSON, LADY! NOW I'LL TAKE YOU TWO BACK SO YOU CAN IMPRESS ALL YOUR FRIENDS WHEN YOU SEE 'EM!

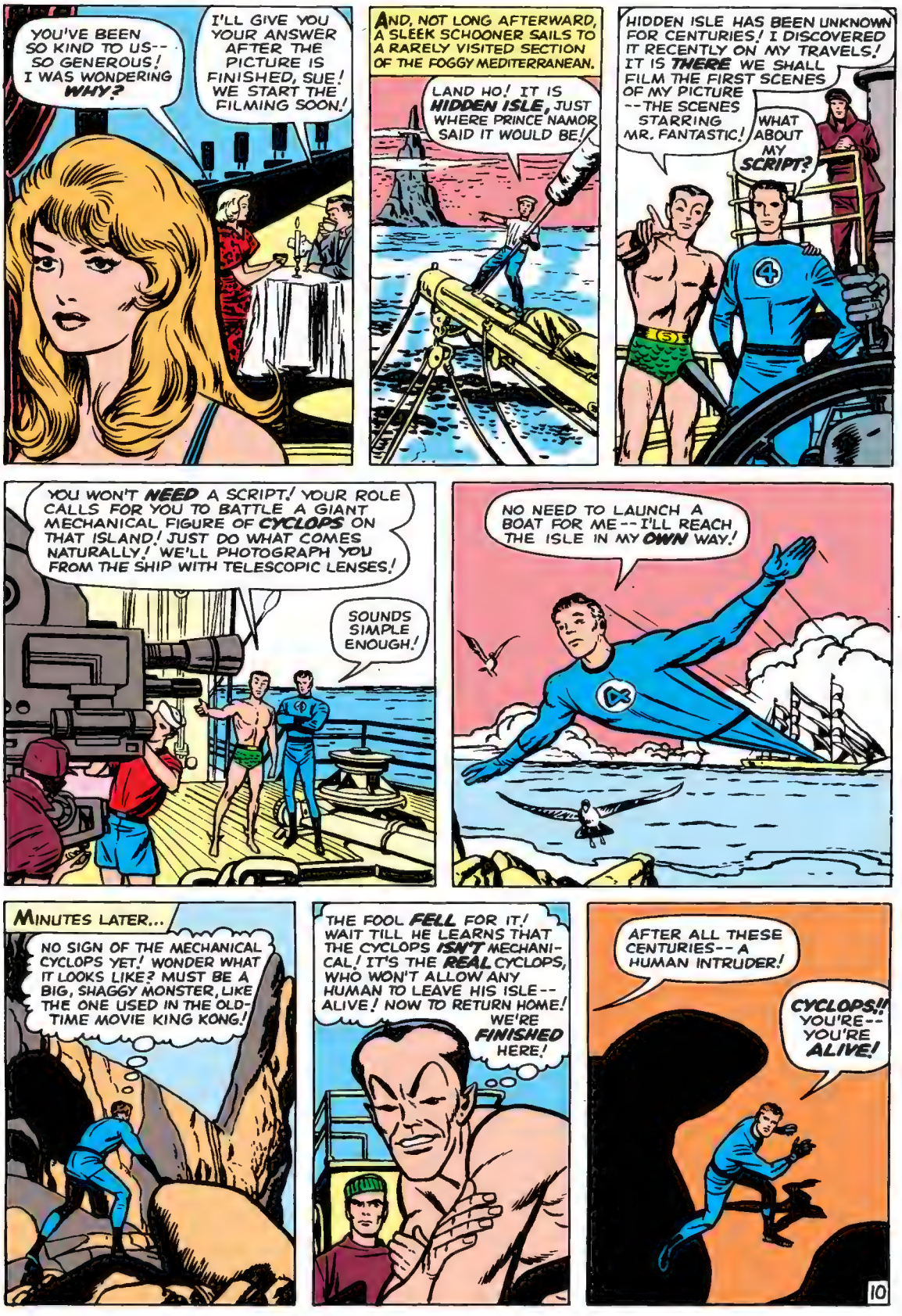

BUT WHILE THE TORCH "GOES HOLLYWOOD", THE THING TRIES TO GET A LITTLE REST ON MUSCLE BEACH...
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE WALKIN', LAMEBRAIN!

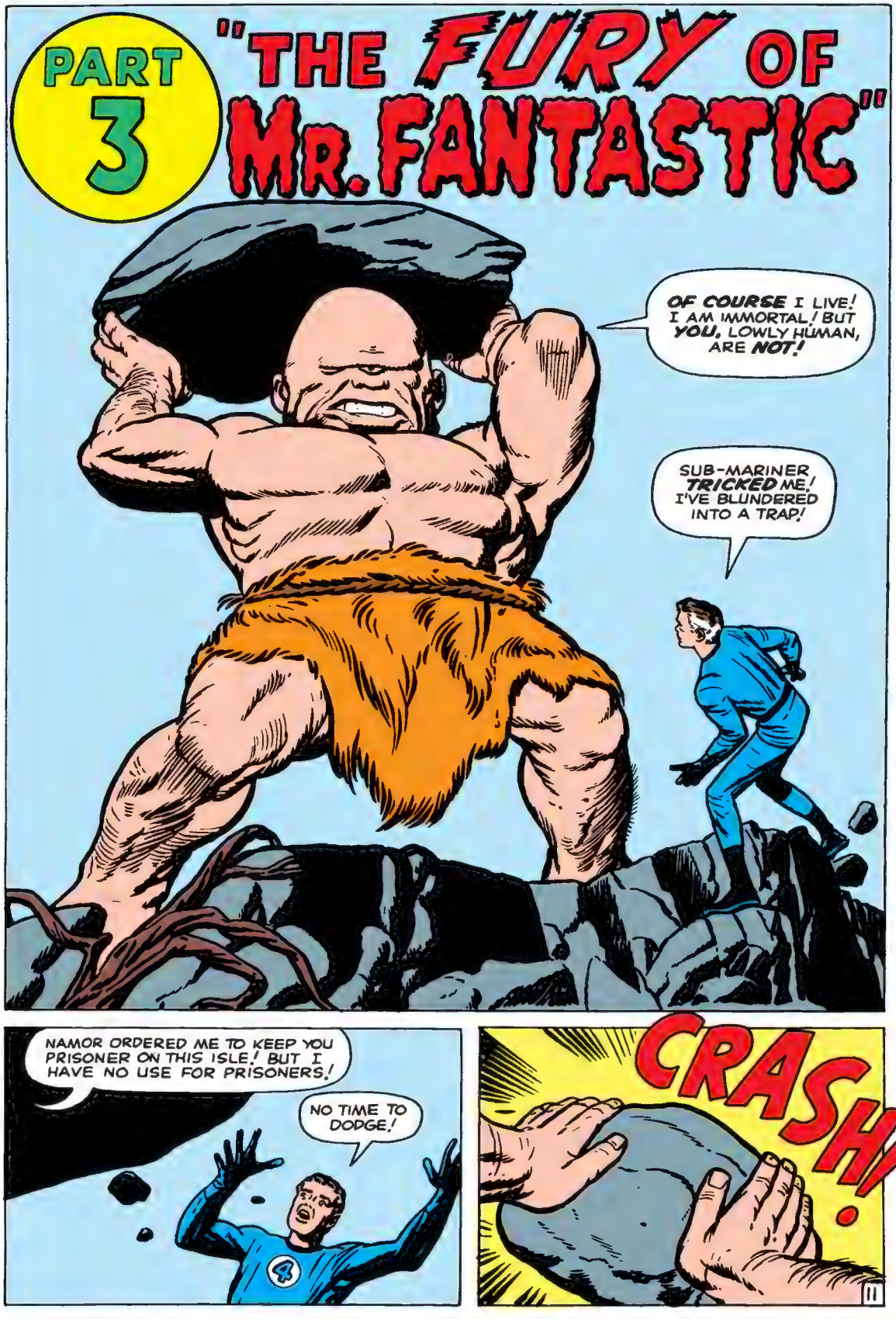

LOOK AT THOSE CREEPS SHOWIN' OFF!
THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA HOW TO GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET AROUND HERE!

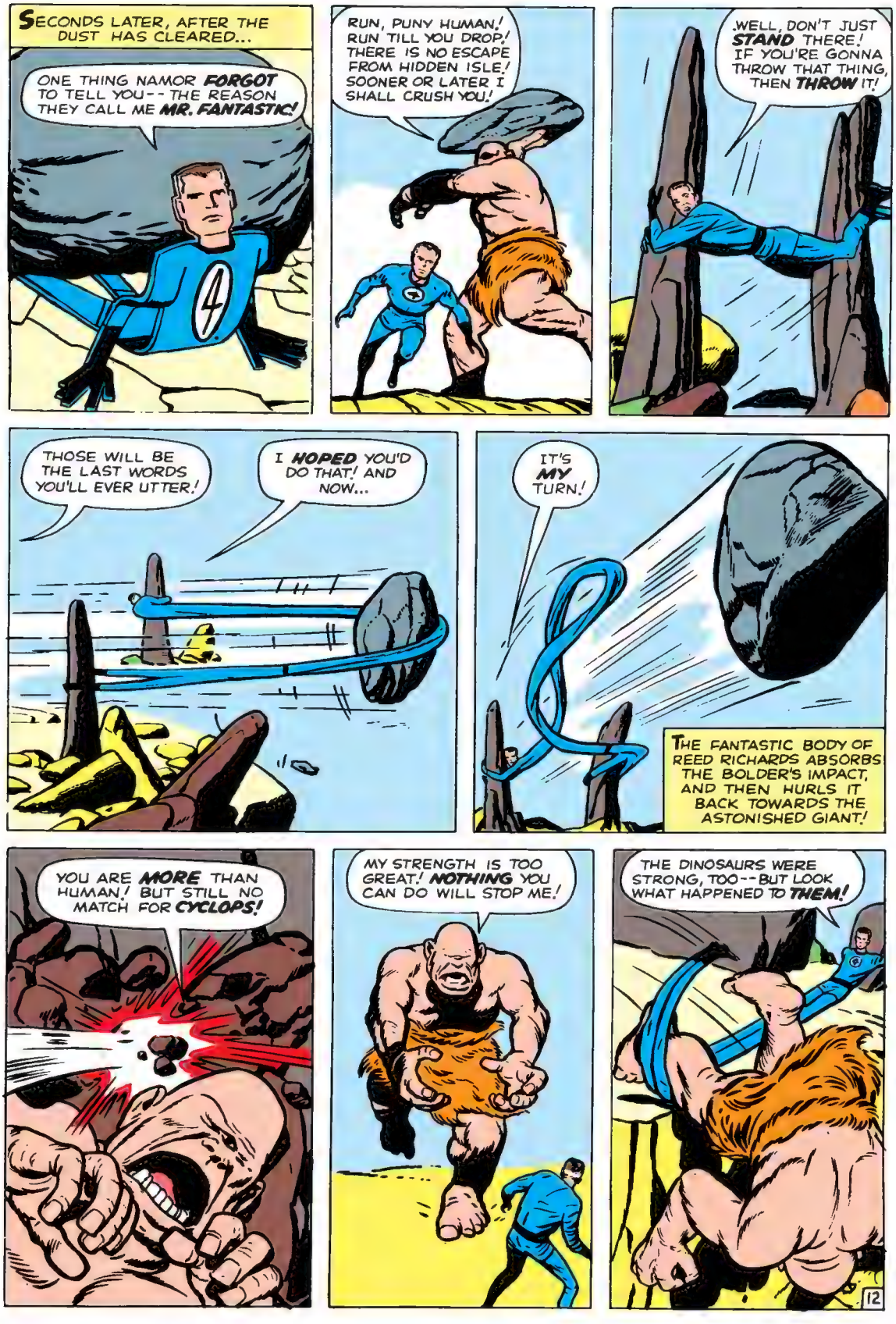

SO YA LIKE LIFTIN' WEIGHTS, EH?


WELL, LET'S SEE YA TRY TO TOP THIS, YA MUSCLE-BOUND GOONS!

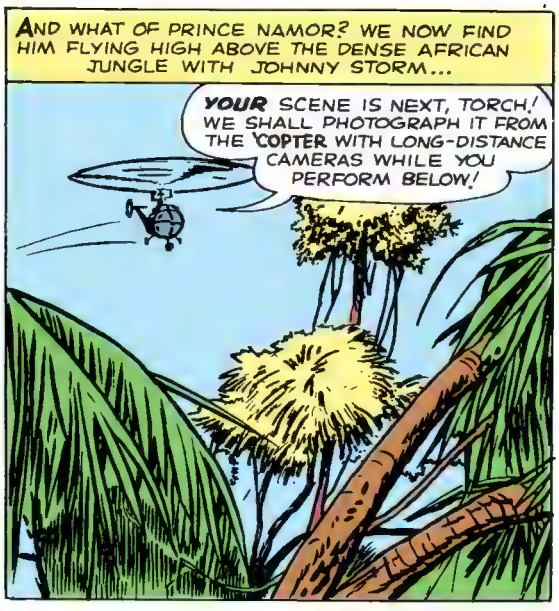

MEANWHILE, AT A FASHIONABLE HOLLYWOOD NIGHT CLUB, SUE STORM DINES WITH THE MAN WHO HOLDS A STRANGE FASCINATION FOR HER...
A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, SUE?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU, NAMOR!

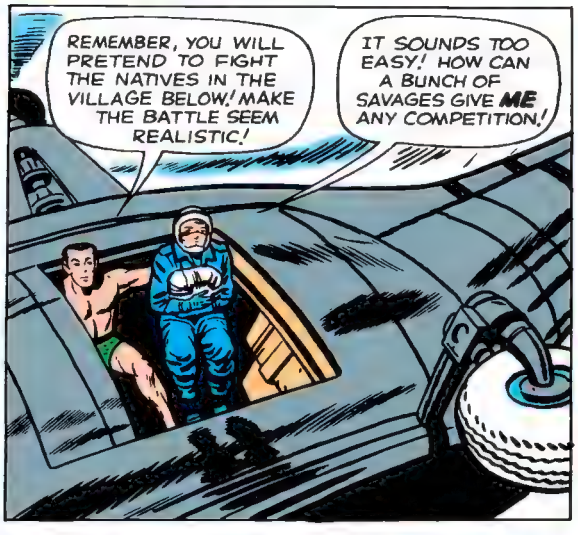

YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND TO US-- SO GENEROUS! I WAS WONDERING WHY?
I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR ANSWER AFTER THE PICTURE IS FINISHED, SUE! WE START THE FILMING SOON!
AND, NOT LONG AFTERWARD, A SLEEK SCHOONER SAILS TO A RARELY VISITED SECTION OF THE FOGGY MEDITERRANEAN.
LAND HO! IT IS HIDDEN ISLE, JUST WHERE PRINCE NAMOR SAID IT WOULD BE!
HIDDEN ISLE HAS BEEN UNKNOWN FOR CENTURIES! I DISCOVERED IT RECENTLY ON MY TRAVELS! IT IS THERE WE SHALL FILM THE FIRST SCENES OF MY PICTURE --THE SCENES STARRING MR. FANTASTIC!
WHAT ABOUT MY SCRIPT?
YOU WON'T NEED A SCRIPT! YOUR ROLE CALLS FOR YOU TO BATTLE A GIANT MECHANICAL FIGURE OF CYCLOPS ON THAT ISLAND! JUST DO WHAT COMES NATURALLY! WE'LL PHOTOGRAPH YOU FROM THE SHIP WITH TELESCOPIC LENSES!
SOUNDS SIMPLE ENOUGH!
NO NEED TO LAUNCH A BOAT FOR ME--I'LL REACH THE ISLE IN MY OWN WAY!
MINUTES LATER...
NO SIGN OF THE MECHANICAL CYCLOPS YET! WONDER WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE? MUST BE A BIG, SHAGGY MONSTER, LIKE THE ONE USED IN THE OLD-TIME MOVIE KING KONG!
THE FOOL FELL FOR IT! WAIT TILL HE LEARNS THAT THE CYCLOPS ISN'T MECHANICAL! IT'S THE REAL CYCLOPS, WHO WON'T ALLOW ANY HUMAN TO LEAVE HIS ISLE--ALIVE! NOW TO RETURN HOME! WE'RE FINISHED HERE!
AFTER ALL THESE CENTURIES--A HUMAN INTRUDER!
CYCLOPS!! YOU'RE--YOU'RE ALIVE!


PART 3
"THE FURY OF MR. FANTASTIC"
OF COURSE I LIVE! I AM IMMORTAL! BUT YOU, LOWLY HUMAN, ARE NOT!
SUB-MARINER TRICKED ME! I'VE BLUNDERED INTO A TRAP!
NAMOR ORDERED ME TO KEEP YOU PRISONER ON THIS ISLE! BUT I HAVE NO USE FOR PRISONERS!
NO TIME TO DODGE!
CRASH!
11


SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE DUST HAS CLEARED...
ONE THING NAMOR FORGOT TO TELL YOU -- THE REASON THEY CALL ME MR. FANTASTIC!
RUN, PUNY HUMAN! RUN TILL YOU DROP! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM HIDDEN ISLE! SOONER OR LATER I SHALL CRUSH YOU!
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE! IF YOU'RE GONNA THROW THAT THING, THEN THROW IT!
THOSE WILL BE THE LAST WORDS YOU'LL EVER UTTER!
I HOPED YOU'D DO THAT! AND NOW...
IT'S MY TURN!
THE FANTASTIC BODY OF REED RICHARDS ABSORBS THE BOLDER'S IMPACT, AND THEN HURLS IT BACK TOWARDS THE ASTONISHED GIANT!
YOU ARE MORE THAN HUMAN! BUT STILL NO MATCH FOR CYCLOPS!
MY STRENGTH IS TOO GREAT! NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL STOP ME!
THE DINOSAURS WERE STRONG, TOO -- BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM!
12

THAT TAKES CARE OF HIM! BY THE TIME HE CAN CLIMB OUT OF THAT PIT, I'LL BE HALF-WAY TO HOLLYWOOD!
I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH SUB-MARINER NOW!


AND WHAT OF PRINCE NAMOR? WE NOW FIND HIM FLYING HIGH ABOVE THE DENSE AFRICAN JUNGLE WITH JOHNNY STORM...
YOUR SCENE IS NEXT, TORCH! WE SHALL PHOTOGRAPH IT FROM THE 'COPTER WITH LONG-DISTANCE CAMERAS WHILE YOU PERFORM BELOW!


REMEMBER, YOU WILL PRETEND TO FIGHT THE NATIVES IN THE VILLAGE BELOW! MAKE THE BATTLE SEEM REALISTIC!
IT SOUNDS TOO EASY! HOW CAN A BUNCH OF SAVAGES GIVE ME ANY COMPETITION!

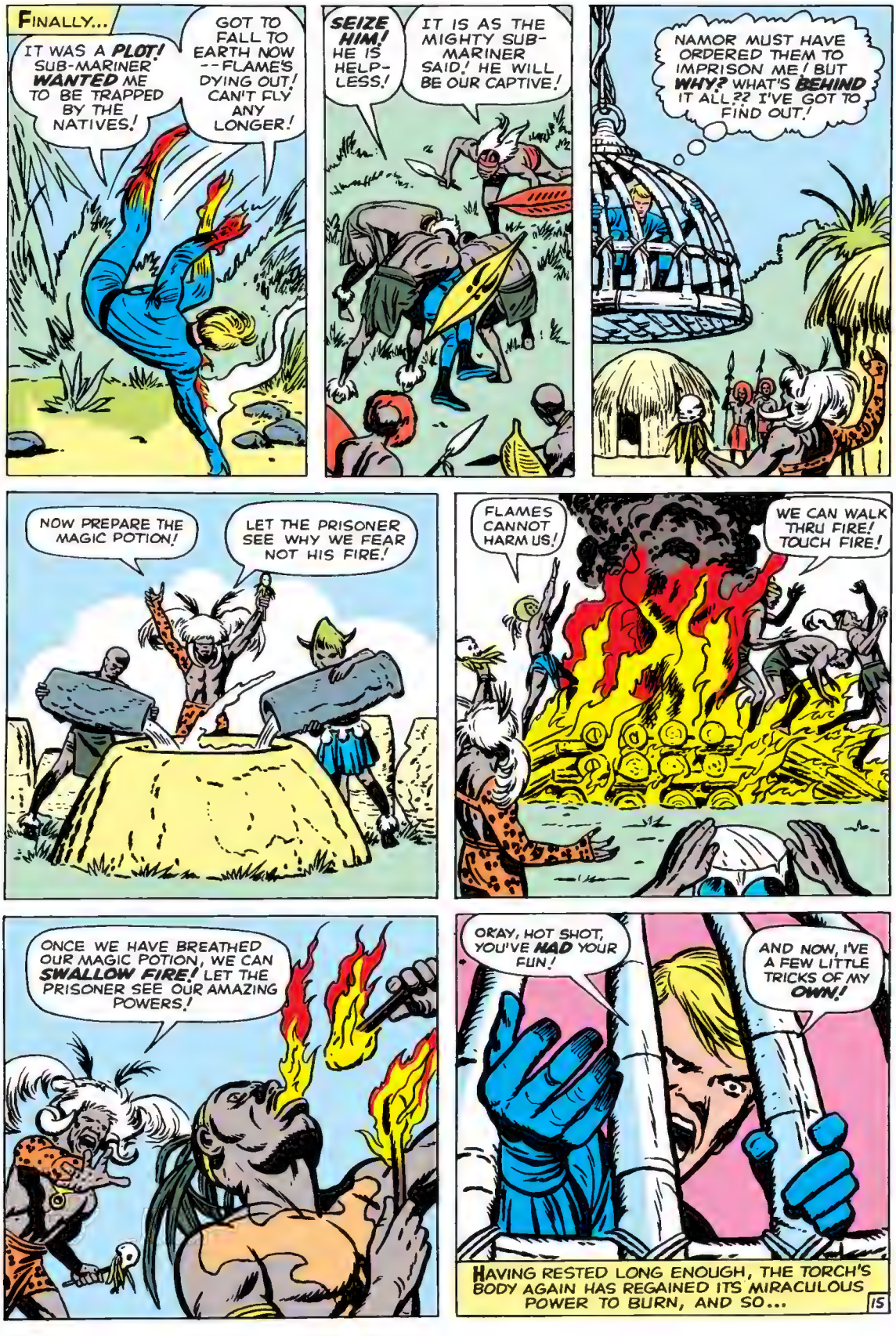
YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU LAND! NOW JUMP!

IT STILL SEEMS KOOKIE TO ME! WHY WOULD HE WANT TO PRODUCE A MOVIE WITH NO SCRIPT?
OH WELL, I SHOULD WORRY! HOPE HE GETS SOME GOOD PICTURES FROM UP THERE!

DO NOT MOVE!! YOU ARE OUR PRISONER!
THE NATIVES! THEY'LL JUMP OUTTA THEIR SKINS WHEN THEY SEE ME IN FLAME!

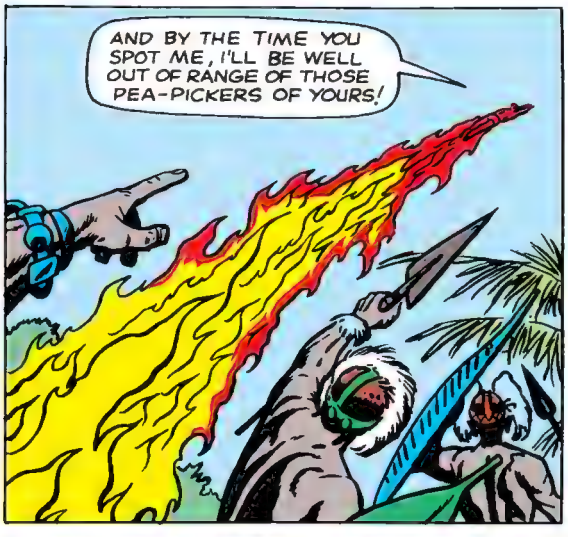
HAH! I FORGOT TO TELL THAT FOOL TEEN-AGER ONE LITTLE DETAIL-- THOSE NATIVES HAVE A MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES THEM IMMUNE TO FIRE! I CAN RETURN TO HOLLY-WOOD NOW! THE TORCH WILL NEVER ESCAPE THEM!

PART 4
"the FLAME of BATTLE"
FLAME ON!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY--THEY DON'T SEEM THE LEAST BIT AWED!
YOU WASTE YOUR TIME! FLAME MEANS NOTHING TO US! SEIZE HIM!
V-995
I'D BETTER TAKE TO THE AIR WHILE I THINK THIS OUT! I'VE HEARD OF A STRANGE TRIBE WHICH IS IMMUNE TO FIRE! THEY MUST BE THAT TRIBE!
WHY DIDN'T SUB-MARINER WARN ME? AND-- WHERE IS HIS CHOPPER? WHY ISN'T HE FILMING THIS?
FOLLOW HIM FROM THE GROUND! PRINCE NAMOR SAID THAT HIS FLAME DIES DOWN SOONER OR LATER-- THEN HE WILL BE OUR PRISONER!
14


FINALLY...
IT WAS A PLOT! SUB-MARINER WANTED ME TO BE TRAPPED BY THE NATIVES!
GOT TO FALL TO EARTH NOW --FLAME'S DYING OUT! CAN'T FLY ANY LONGER!
SEIZE HIM! HE IS HELP-LESS!
IT IS AS THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER SAID! HE WILL BE OUR CAPTIVE!
NAMOR MUST HAVE ORDERED THEM TO IMPRISON ME! BUT WHY? WHAT'S BEHIND IT ALL?? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!
NOW PREPARE THE MAGIC POTION!
LET THE PRISONER SEE WHY WE FEAR NOT HIS FIRE!
FLAMES CANNOT HARM US!
WE CAN WALK THRU FIRE! TOUCH FIRE!
ONCE WE HAVE BREATHED OUR MAGIC POTION, WE CAN SWALLOW FIRE! LET THE PRISONER SEE OUR AMAZING POWERS!
OKAY, HOT SHOT, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN!
AND NOW, I'VE A FEW LITTLE TRICKS OF MY OWN!
HAVING RESTED LONG ENOUGH, THE TORCH'S BODY AGAIN HAS REGAINED ITS MIRACULOUS POWER TO BURN, AND SO...
15

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A BAMBOO CAGE TO HOLD ME WHEN I USE MY NITRO-FLAME!
FLAME ON!

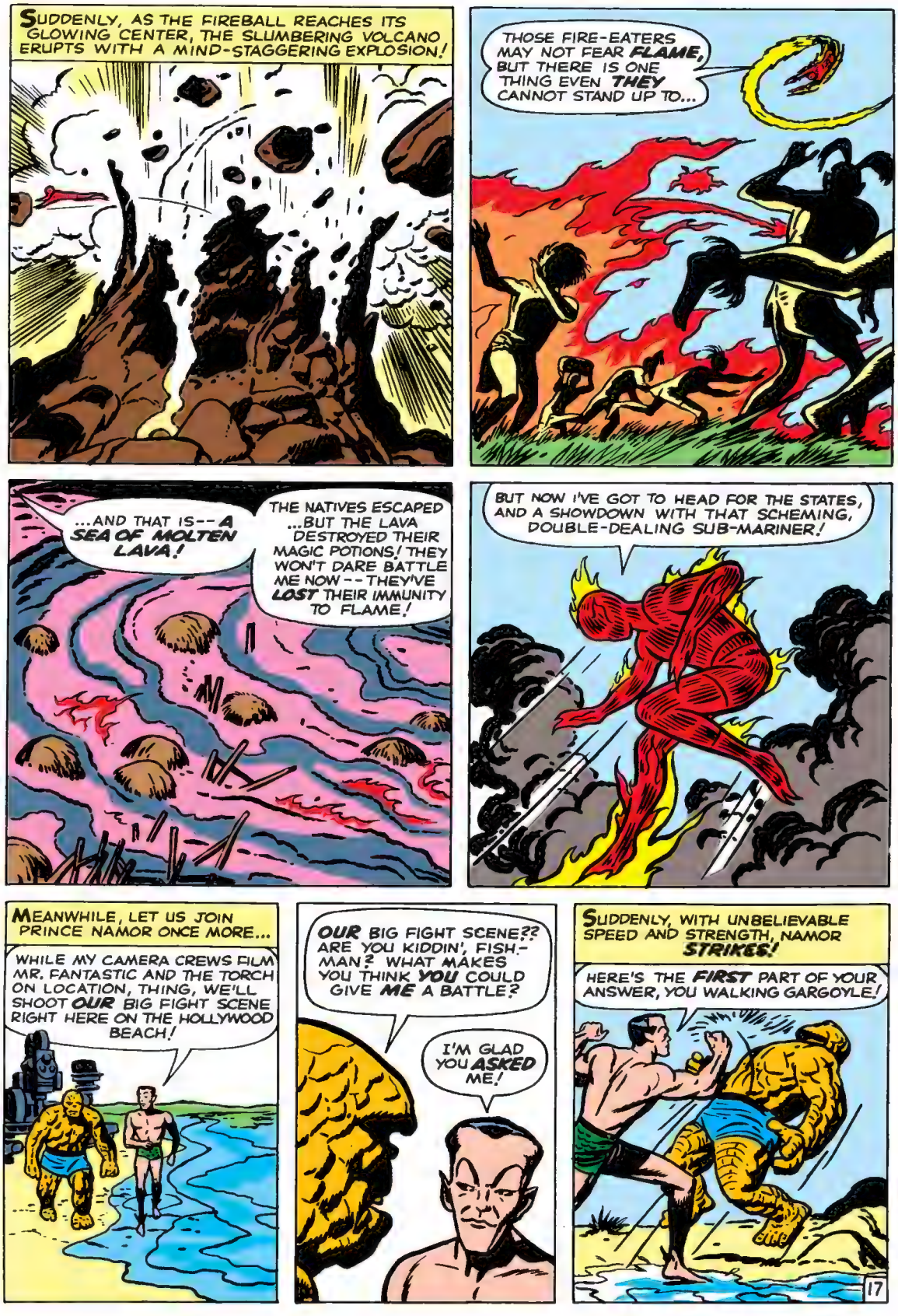
AND EVEN IF YOUR SPEARS ARE TIPPED IN A POTION WHICH WILL HARM MY FLAMING BODY, FIRST YOU HAVETA FIGURE OUT WHICH OF THESE FLAMING IMAGES I CAN CREATE IS THE REAL ME!

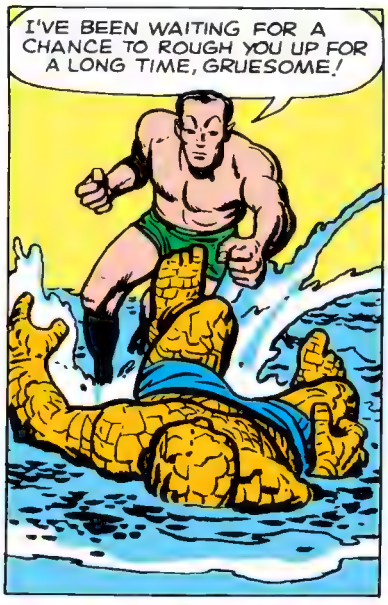

AND BY THE TIME YOU SPOT ME, I'LL BE WELL OUT OF RANGE OF THOSE PEA-PICKERS OF YOURS!

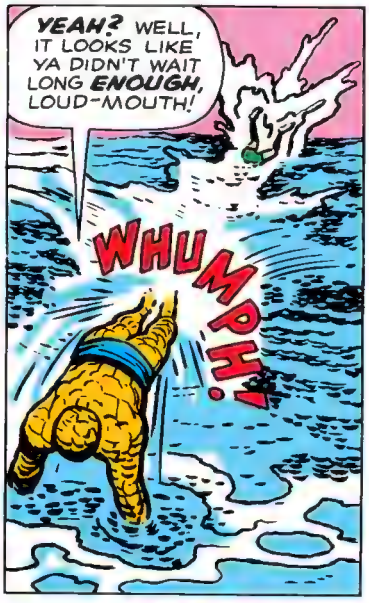
YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE! WHEN YOUR FLAME DIES, WE WILL AGAIN SEIZE YOU--BUT NEXT TIME WE SLAY YOU ON SIGHT!

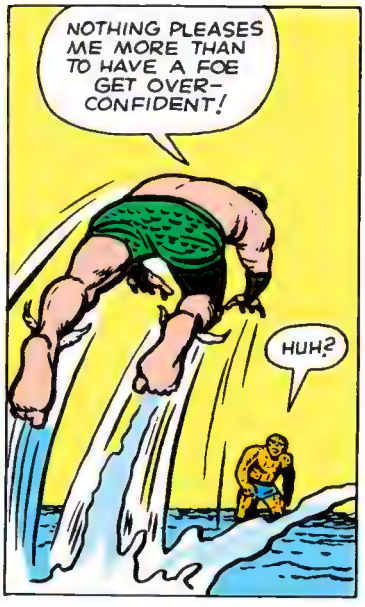
THAT'S WHERE HE'S WRONG! THERE AIN'T GONNA BE A NEXT TIME!
NOT IF THAT VOLCANO I SEE YONDER HAS A SPARK OF LIFE STILL LEFT IN IT!

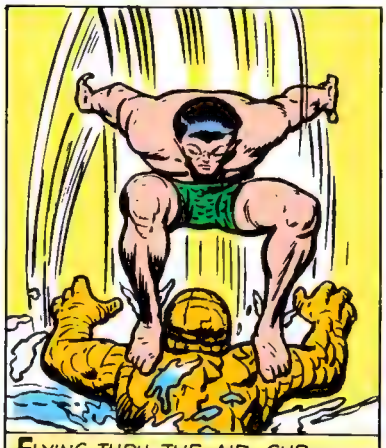
I'M IN LUCK! IT'S BEEN SMOLDERING FOR YEARS! ALL IT'LL TAKE NOW IS ONE WELL-AIMED FIRE-BALL, LIKE THIS!
16


SUDDENLY, AS THE FIREBALL REACHES ITS GLOWING CENTER, THE SLUMBERING VOLCANO ERUPTS WITH A MIND-STAGGERING EXPLOSION!
THOSE FIRE-EATERS MAY NOT FEAR FLAME, BUT THERE IS ONE THING EVEN THEY CANNOT STAND UP TO...
...AND THAT IS--A SEA OF MOLTEN LAVA!
THE NATIVES ESCAPED ...BUT THE LAVA DESTROYED THEIR MAGIC POTIONS! THEY WON'T DARE BATTLE ME NOW--THEY'VE LOST THEIR IMMUNITY TO FLAME!
BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO HEAD FOR THE STATES, AND A SHOWDOWN WITH THAT SCHEMING, DOUBLE-DEALING SUB-MARINER!
MEANWHILE, LET US JOIN PRINCE NAMOR ONCE MORE...
WHILE MY CAMERA CREWS FILM MR. FANTASTIC AND THE TORCH ON LOCATION, THING, WE'LL SHOOT OUR BIG FIGHT SCENE RIGHT HERE ON THE HOLLYWOOD BEACH!
OUR BIG FIGHT SCENE?? ARE YOU KIDDIN', FISH-MAN? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU COULD GIVE ME A BATTLE?
I'M GLAD YOU ASKED ME!
SUDDENLY, WITH UNBELIEVABLE SPEED AND STRENGTH, NAMOR STRIKES!
HERE'S THE FIRST PART OF YOUR ANSWER, YOU WALKING GARGOYLE!

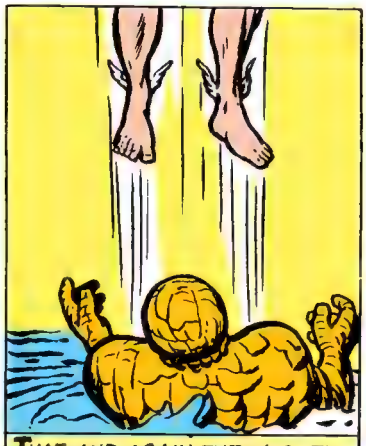




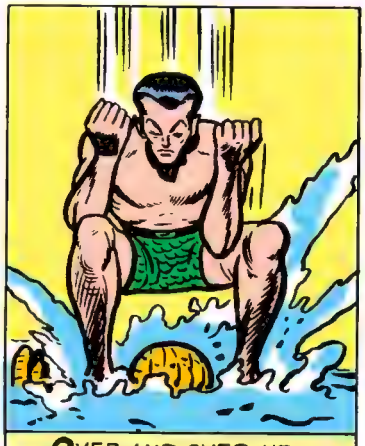




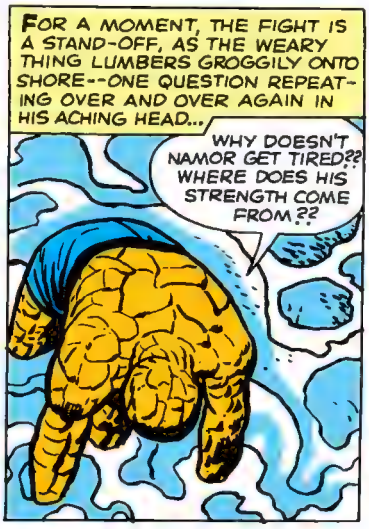
FLYING THRU THE AIR, SUB-MARINER LANDS ON THE THING'S SHOULDERS WITH THE FORCE OF A RUNAWAY PILE DRIVER!



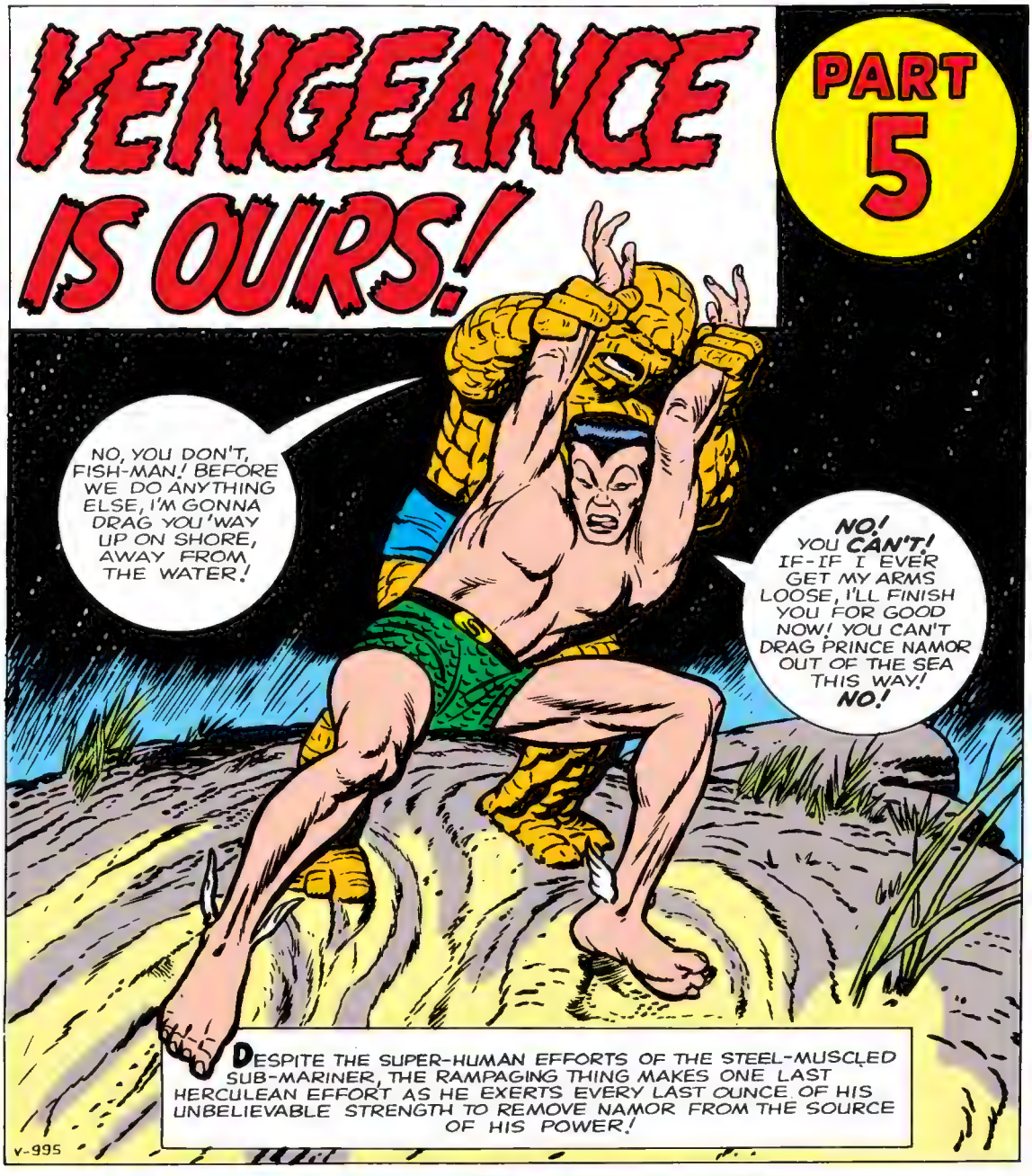
TIME AND AGAIN THE MIGHTY MONARCH OF THE SEA HURLS HIMSELF HIGH ABOVE HIS VICTIM, AND THEN...

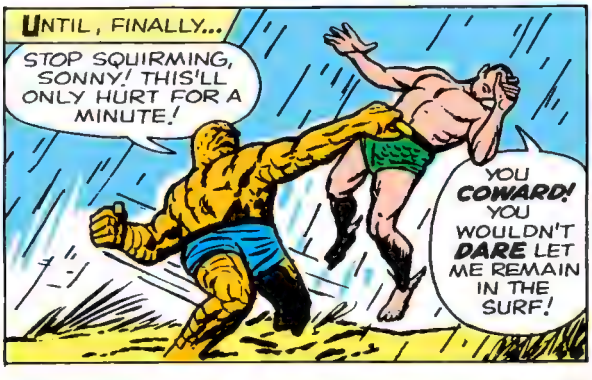


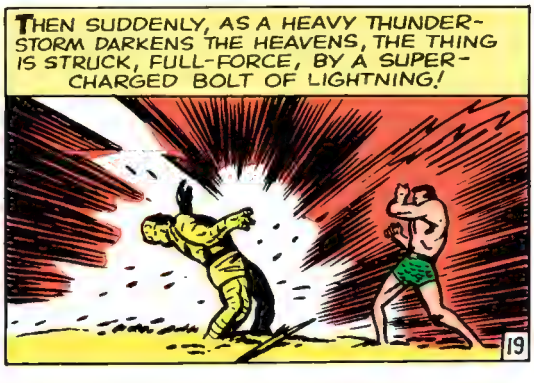
...OVER AND OVER HE HAMMERS THE STUNNED THING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE SOGGY SAND BELOW!

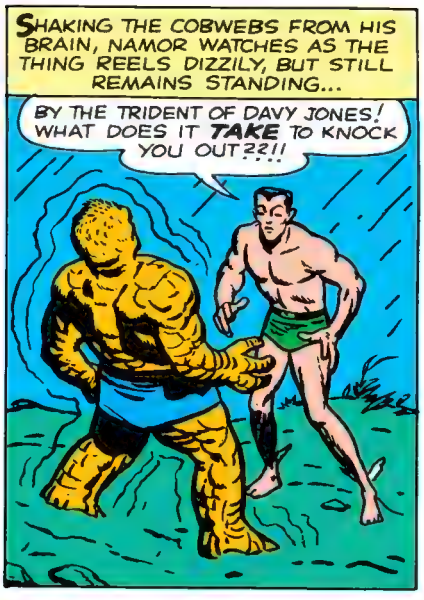

FOR A MOMENT, THE FIGHT IS A STAND-OFF, AS THE WEARY THING LUMBERS GROGGILY ONTO SHORE--ONE QUESTION REPEATING OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN HIS ACHING HEAD...
WHY DOESN'T NAMOR GET TIRED?? WHERE DOES HIS STRENGTH COME FROM??

AND THEN, IN A BLINDING FLASH, THE ANSWER COMES TO HIM...
THE WATER! I SHOULDA GUESSED! THAT'S WHY HE WANTED TO FIGHT ON THE BEACH!
THIS IS IT, MISTER!


VENGEANCE IS OURS!
PART 5
NO, YOU DON'T, FISH-MAN! BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING ELSE, I'M GONNA DRAG YOU 'WAY UP ON SHORE, AWAY FROM THE WATER!
NO! YOU CAN'T! IF-IF I EVER GET MY ARMS LOOSE, I'LL FINISH YOU FOR GOOD NOW! YOU CAN'T DRAG PRINCE NAMOR OUT OF THE SEA THIS WAY! NO!
DESPITE THE SUPER-HUMAN EFFORTS OF THE STEEL-MUSCLED SUB-MARINER, THE RAMPAGING THING MAKES ONE LAST HERCULEAN EFFORT AS HE EXERTS EVERY LAST OUNCE OF HIS UNBELIEVABLE STRENGTH TO REMOVE NAMOR FROM THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER!
v-995


UNTIL, FINALLY...
STOP SQUIRMING, SONNY! THIS'LL ONLY HURT FOR A MINUTE!
YOU COWARD! YOU WOULDN'T DARE LET ME REMAIN IN THE SURF!

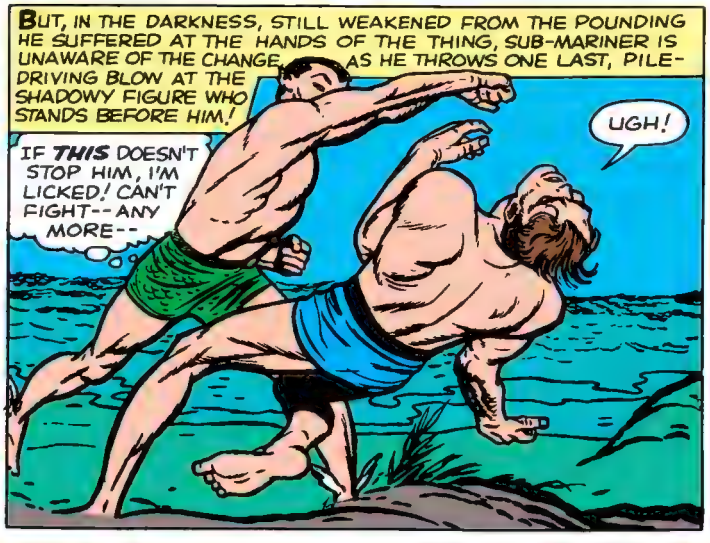

THEN SUDDENLY, AS A HEAVY THUNDER-STORM DARKENS THE HEAVENS, THE THING IS STRUCK, FULL-FORCE, BY A SUPER-CHARGED BOLT OF LIGHTNING!
19

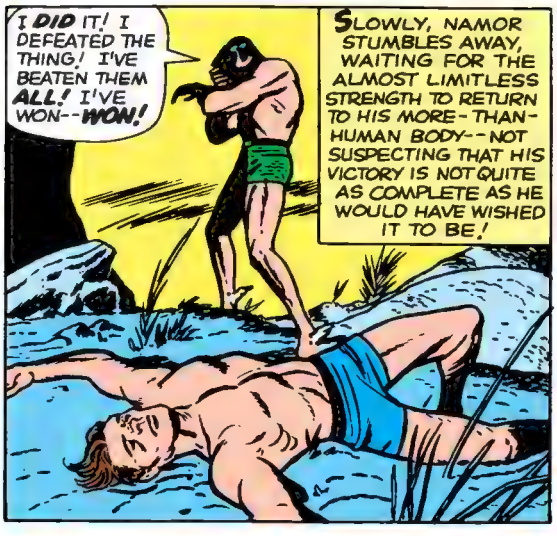

SHAKING THE COBWEBS FROM HIS BRAIN, NAMOR WATCHES AS THE THING REELS DIZZILY, BUT STILL REMAINS STANDING...
BY THE TRIDENT OF DAVY JONES! WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO KNOCK YOU OUT??!!

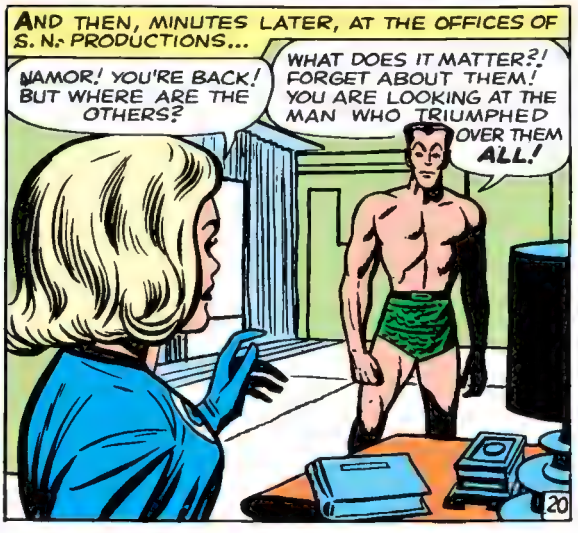
THE THING HAS ABSORBED A SHOCK WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL TO ANY LESSER MAN, BUT IT HAS A STRANGE EFFECT ON NAMOR'S HULKING FOE...

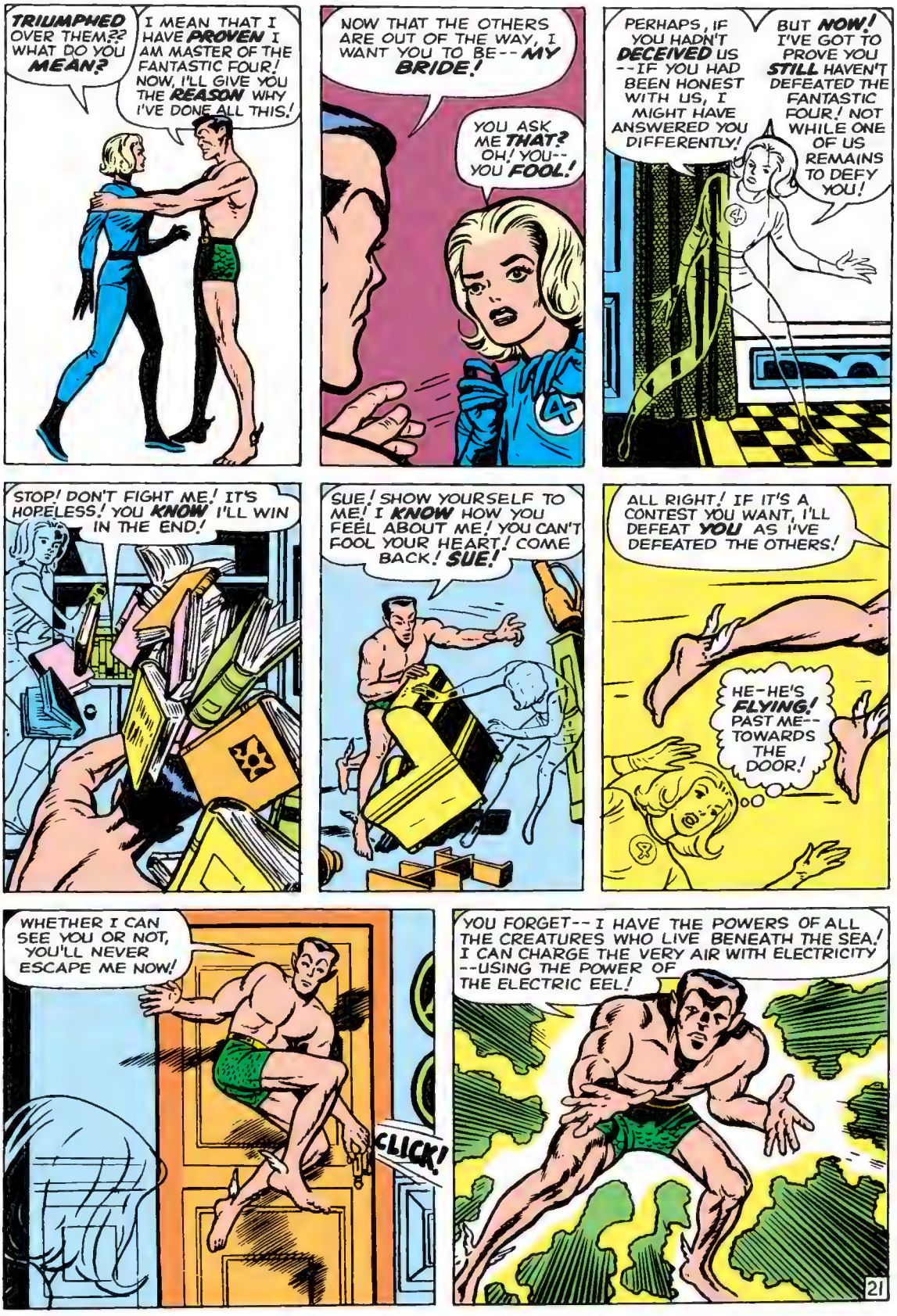
THERE, IN THE GATHERING DARKNESS, THE MYSTERIOUS POWER OF THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE CAUSES THE THING TO CHANGE ONCE AGAIN...

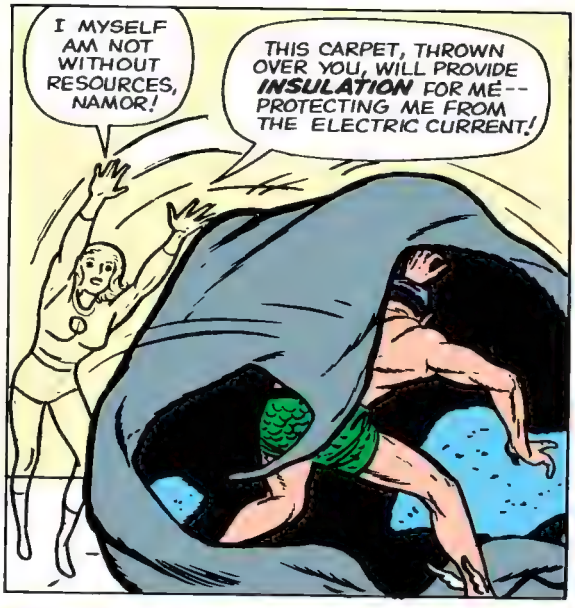
AND, WITHIN SECONDS, THE THING GIVES WAY TO HUSKY, HANDSOME, UNCOMPREHENDING BEN GRIMM!


BUT, IN THE DARKNESS, STILL WEAKENED FROM THE POUNDING HE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE THING, SUB-MARINER IS UNAWARE OF THE CHANGE AS HE THROWS ONE LAST, PILE-DRIVING BLOW AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE WHO STANDS BEFORE HIM!
IF THIS DOESN'T STOP HIM, I'M LICKED! CAN'T FIGHT--ANY MORE--
UGH!

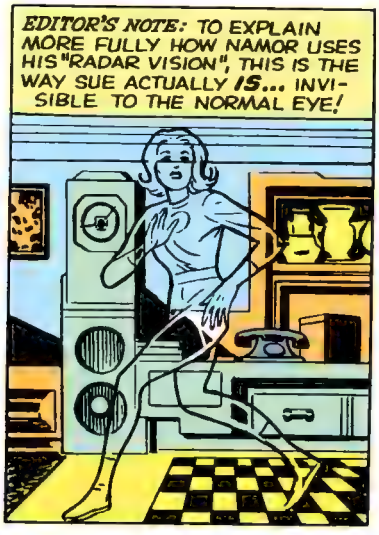

I DID IT! I DEFEATED THE THING! I'VE BEATEN THEM ALL! I'VE WON--WON!
SLOWLY, NAMOR STUMBLES AWAY, WAITING FOR THE ALMOST LIMITLESS STRENGTH TO RETURN TO HIS MORE-THAN-HUMAN BODY--NOT SUSPECTING THAT HIS VICTORY IS NOT QUITE AS COMPLETE AS HE WOULD HAVE WISHED IT TO BE!

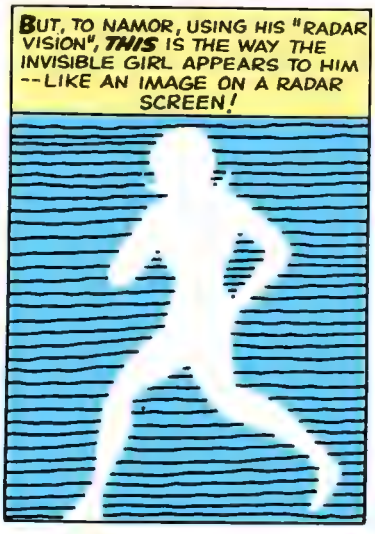

AND THEN, MINUTES LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF S. N. PRODUCTIONS...
NAMOR! YOU'RE BACK! BUT WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER?! FORGET ABOUT THEM! YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE MAN WHO TRIUMPHED OVER THEM ALL!

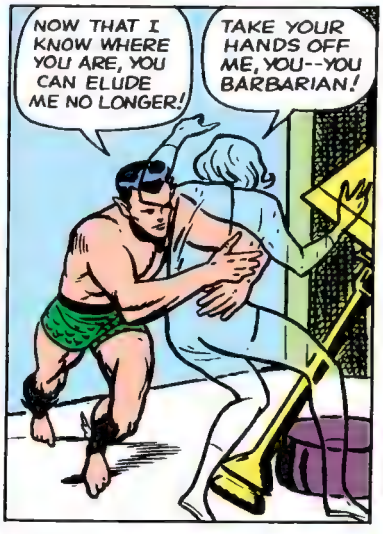

TRIUMPHED OVER THEM?? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN THAT I HAVE PROVEN I AM MASTER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR! NOW, I'LL GIVE YOU THE REASON WHY I'VE DONE ALL THIS!
NOW THAT THE OTHERS ARE OUT OF THE WAY, I WANT YOU TO BE-- MY BRIDE!
YOU ASK ME THAT? OH! YOU-- YOU FOOL!
PERHAPS, IF YOU HADN'T DECEIVED US --IF YOU HAD BEEN HONEST WITH US, I MIGHT HAVE ANSWERED YOU DIFFERENTLY!
BUT NOW! I'VE GOT TO PROVE YOU STILL HAVEN'T DEFEATED THE FANTASTIC FOUR! NOT WHILE ONE OF US REMAINS TO DEFY YOU!
STOP! DON'T FIGHT ME! IT'S HOPELESS! YOU KNOW I'LL WIN IN THE END!
SUE! SHOW YOURSELF TO ME! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME! YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR HEART! COME BACK! SUE!
ALL RIGHT! IF IT'S A CONTEST YOU WANT, I'LL DEFEAT YOU AS I'VE DEFEATED THE OTHERS!
HE-HE'S FLYING! PAST ME-- TOWARDS THE DOOR!
WHETHER I CAN SEE YOU OR NOT, YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME NOW!
CLICK!
YOU FORGET-- I HAVE THE POWERS OF ALL THE CREATURES WHO LIVE BENEATH THE SEA! I CAN CHARGE THE VERY AIR WITH ELECTRICITY --USING THE POWER OF THE ELECTRIC EEL!

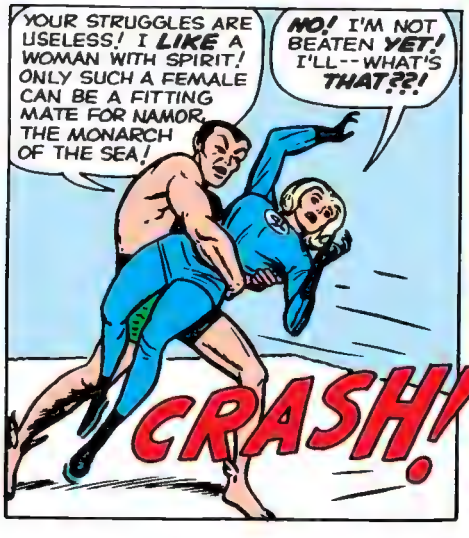

I MYSELF AM NOT WITHOUT RESOURCES, NAMOR!
THIS CARPET, THROWN OVER YOU, WILL PROVIDE INSULATION FOR ME--PROTECTING ME FROM THE ELECTRIC CURRENT!

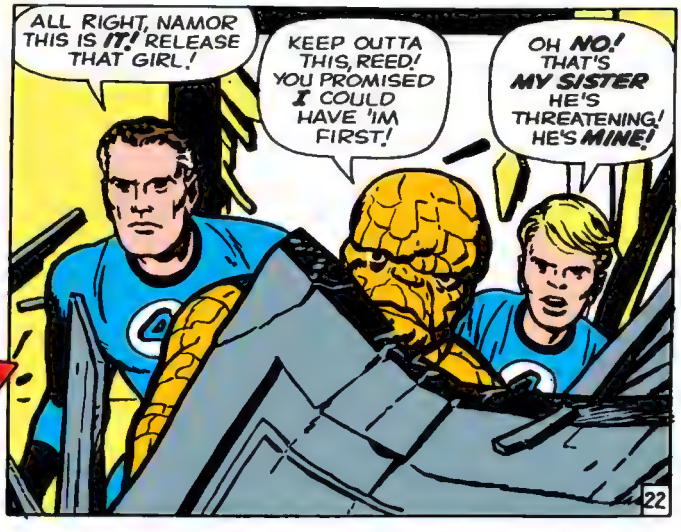
YOU ARE WORTHY OF ME, FEMALE! IN EVERY WAY! BUT HERE IS A POWER YOU CANNOT COMBAT! THE RADAR SENSE OF THE CAVE FISH FROM THE LOWEST DEPTHS OF THE SEA!
THEY HAVE NO EYES, BUT CAN SENSE THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS BY USING THEIR RADAR-TYPE INSTINCTS! AS I SHALL DO WITH YOU!

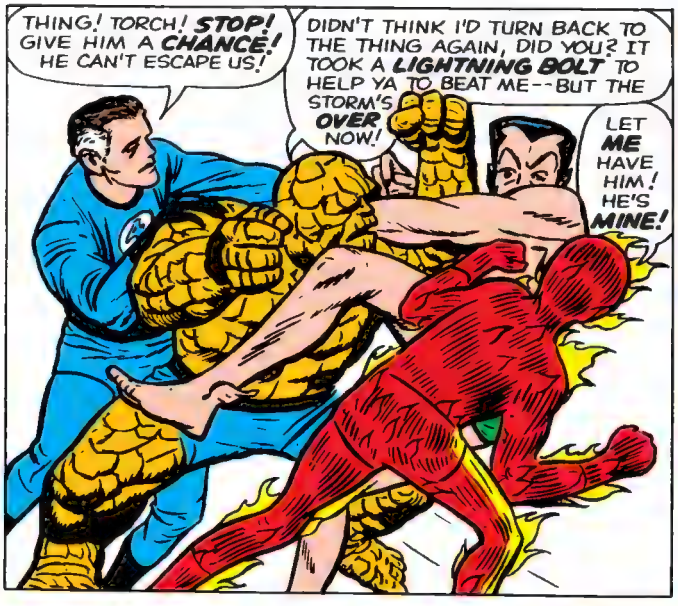

EDITOR'S NOTE: TO EXPLAIN MORE FULLY HOW NAMOR USES HIS "RADAR VISION", THIS IS THE WAY SUE ACTUALLY IS... INVISIBLE TO THE NORMAL EYE!


BUT, TO NAMOR, USING HIS "RADAR VISION", THIS IS THE WAY THE INVISIBLE GIRL APPEARS TO HIM --LIKE AN IMAGE ON A RADAR SCREEN!

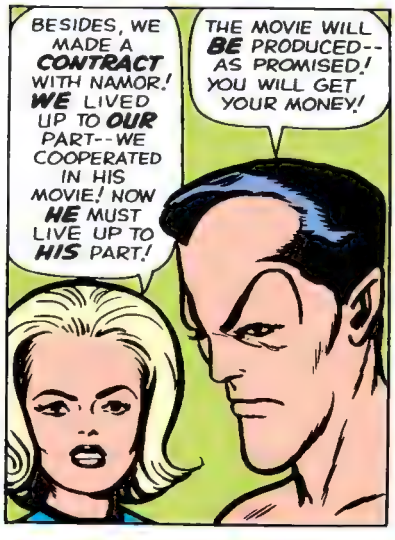

NOW THAT I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN ELUDE ME NO LONGER!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU--YOU BARBARIAN!


YOUR STRUGGLES ARE USELESS! I LIKE A WOMAN WITH SPIRIT! ONLY SUCH A FEMALE CAN BE A FITTING MATE FOR NAMOR, THE MONARCH OF THE SEA!
NO! I'M NOT BEATEN YET! I'LL--WHAT'S THAT??!
CRASH!

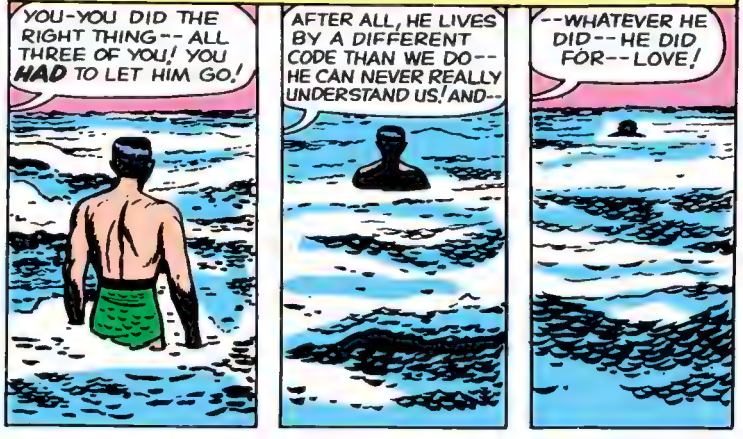

ALL RIGHT, NAMOR THIS IS IT! RELEASE THAT GIRL!
KEEP OUTTA THIS, REED! YOU PROMISED I COULD HAVE 'IM FIRST!
OH NO! THAT'S MY SISTER HE'S THREATENING! HE'S MINE!


THING! TORCH! STOP! GIVE HIM A CHANCE! HE CAN'T ESCAPE US!
DIDN'T THINK I'D TURN BACK TO THE THING AGAIN, DID YOU? IT TOOK A LIGHTNING BOLT TO HELP YA TO BEAT ME--BUT THE STORM'S OVER NOW!
LET ME HAVE HIM! HE'S MINE!

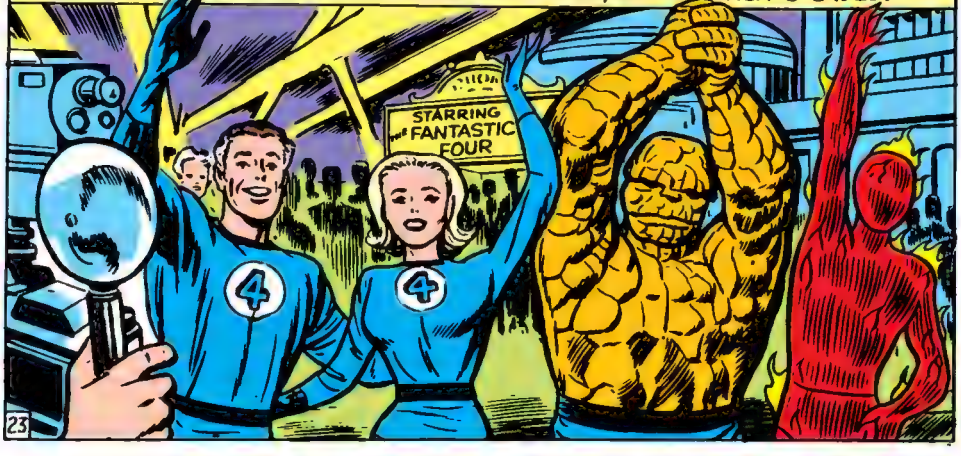
SUE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STAY BACK--ALL OF YOU! EVEN IF YOU THINK HE IS YOUR ENEMY--IT'S THREE AGAINST ONE! YOU'VE NEVER GANGED UP ON ANYONE BEFORE!


BESIDES, WE MADE A CONTRACT WITH NAMOR! WE LIVED UP TO OUR PART--WE COOPERATED IN HIS MOVIE! NOW HE MUST LIVE UP TO HIS PART!
THE MOVIE WILL BE PRODUCED--AS PROMISED! YOU WILL GET YOUR MONEY!

AND THEN, SILENTLY, MAJESTICALLY, THE PROUD FIGURE TURNS AND LEAVES THE BUILDING, AS NO HAND IS RAISED TO STOP HIM! WITH A SLOW, STEADY TREAD HE ENTERS THE VAST SWIRLING SEA, NEVER LOOKING BACK... THE MONARCH RETURNS TO HIS DOMAIN!

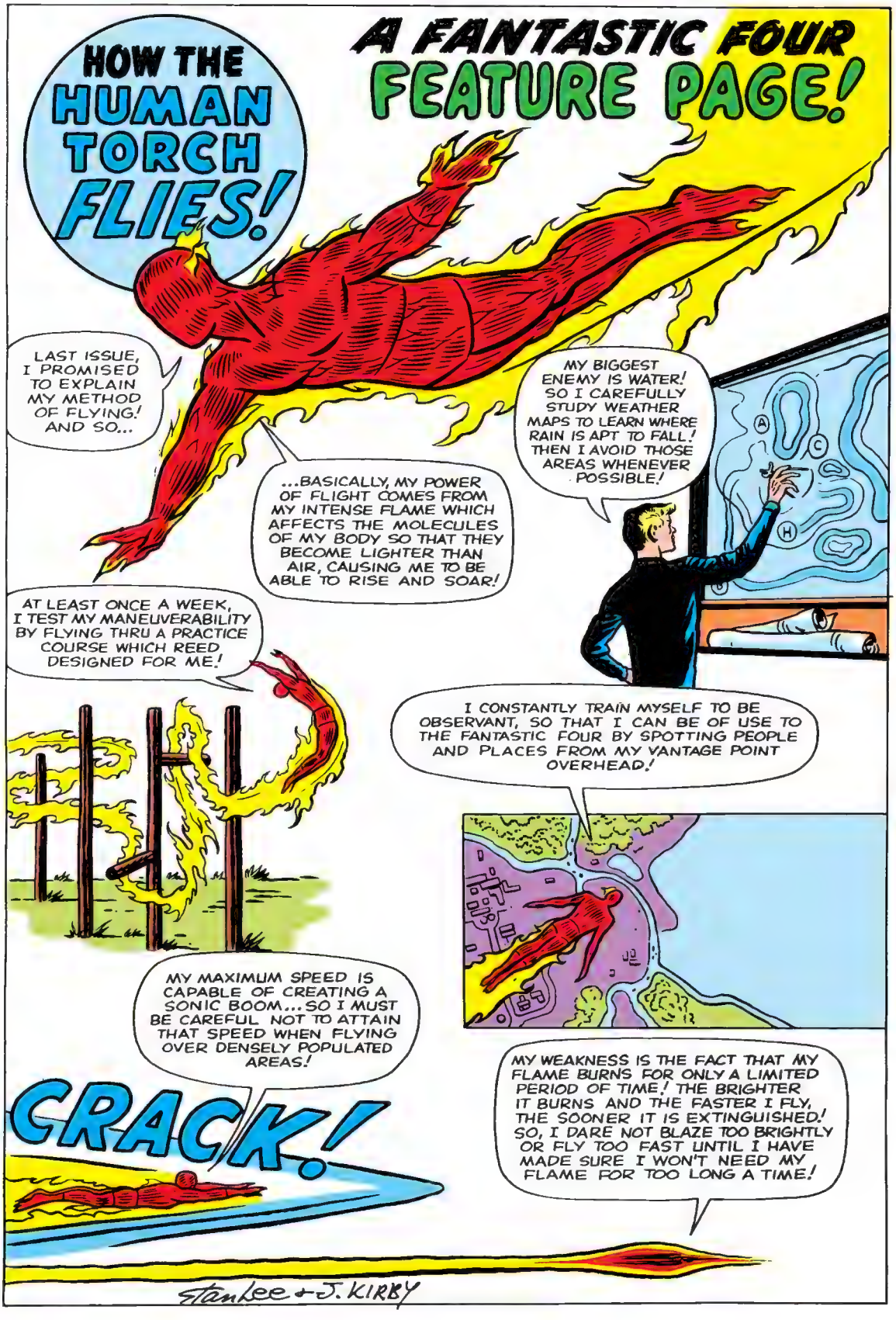

YOU-YOU DID THE RIGHT THING--ALL THREE OF YOU! YOU HAD TO LET HIM GO!
AFTER ALL, HE LIVES BY A DIFFERENT CODE THAN WE DO--HE CAN NEVER REALLY UNDERSTAND US! AND--
--WHATEVER HE DID--HE DID FOR--LOVE!

WEEKS LATER, ALL AMERICA ACCLAIMS A NEW MOTION PICTURE HIT, LITTLE DREAMING OF THE AMAZING TALE BEHIND THE FILM! THE FANTASTIC FOUR ONCE AGAIN HAVE THE MONEY TO CARRY ON THEIR UNIQUE LIFES' WORK, AND OUR SAGA IS ENDED!



BUT THE ADVENTURES OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE NOT OVER! NEXT MONTH THERE WILL BE MORE THRILLS AND SURPRISES WITH THE FOURSOME WHOSE INCREDIBLE EXPLOITS AND DOWN-TO-EARTH REALISM TRULY MAKE THIS--THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

the END


A FANTASTIC FOUR FEATURE PAGE!
HOW THE HUMAN TORCH FLIES!
LAST ISSUE, I PROMISED TO EXPLAIN MY METHOD OF FLYING! AND SO...
...BASICALLY, MY POWER OF FLIGHT COMES FROM MY INTENSE FLAME WHICH AFFECTS THE MOLECULES OF MY BODY SO THAT THEY BECOME LIGHTER THAN AIR, CAUSING ME TO BE ABLE TO RISE AND SOAR!
MY BIGGEST ENEMY IS WATER! SO I CAREFULLY STUDY WEATHER MAPS TO LEARN WHERE RAIN IS APT TO FALL! THEN I AVOID THOSE AREAS WHENEVER POSSIBLE!
A
C
H
AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK, I TEST MY MANEUVERABILITY BY FLYING THRU A PRACTICE COURSE WHICH REED DESIGNED FOR ME!
I CONSTANTLY TRAIN MYSELF TO BE OBSERVANT, SO THAT I CAN BE OF USE TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR BY SPOTTING PEOPLE AND PLACES FROM MY VANTAGE POINT OVERHEAD!
MY MAXIMUM SPEED IS CAPABLE OF CREATING A SONIC BOOM... SO I MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO ATTAIN THAT SPEED WHEN FLYING OVER DENSELY POPULATED AREAS!
CRACK!
MY WEAKNESS IS THE FACT THAT MY FLAME BURNS FOR ONLY A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME! THE BRIGHTER IT BURNS AND THE FASTER I FLY, THE SOONER IT IS EXTINGUISHED! SO, I DARE NOT BLAZE TOO BRIGHTLY OR FLY TOO FAST UNTIL I HAVE MADE SURE I WON'T NEED MY FLAME FOR TOO LONG A TIME!
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY

IND.
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
THE Fantastic Four
MC
HOLD YOUR BREATH!! HERE IS...
"THE RETURN OF DOCTOR DOOM!"
10 JAN
HOW'S THIS FOR A TWIST, JACK? WE'VE GOT DOCTOR DOOM AS ONE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
...AND MISTER FANTASTIC HIMSELF IS THE VILLAIN!! OUR FANS OUGHTTA FLIP OVER THIS YARN!!
IN THIS EPIC ISSUE: SURPRISE FOLLOWS SURPRISE AS YOU ACTUALLY MEET LEE AND KIRBY IN THE STORY!! PLUS: A GORGEOUS PIN-UP OF THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
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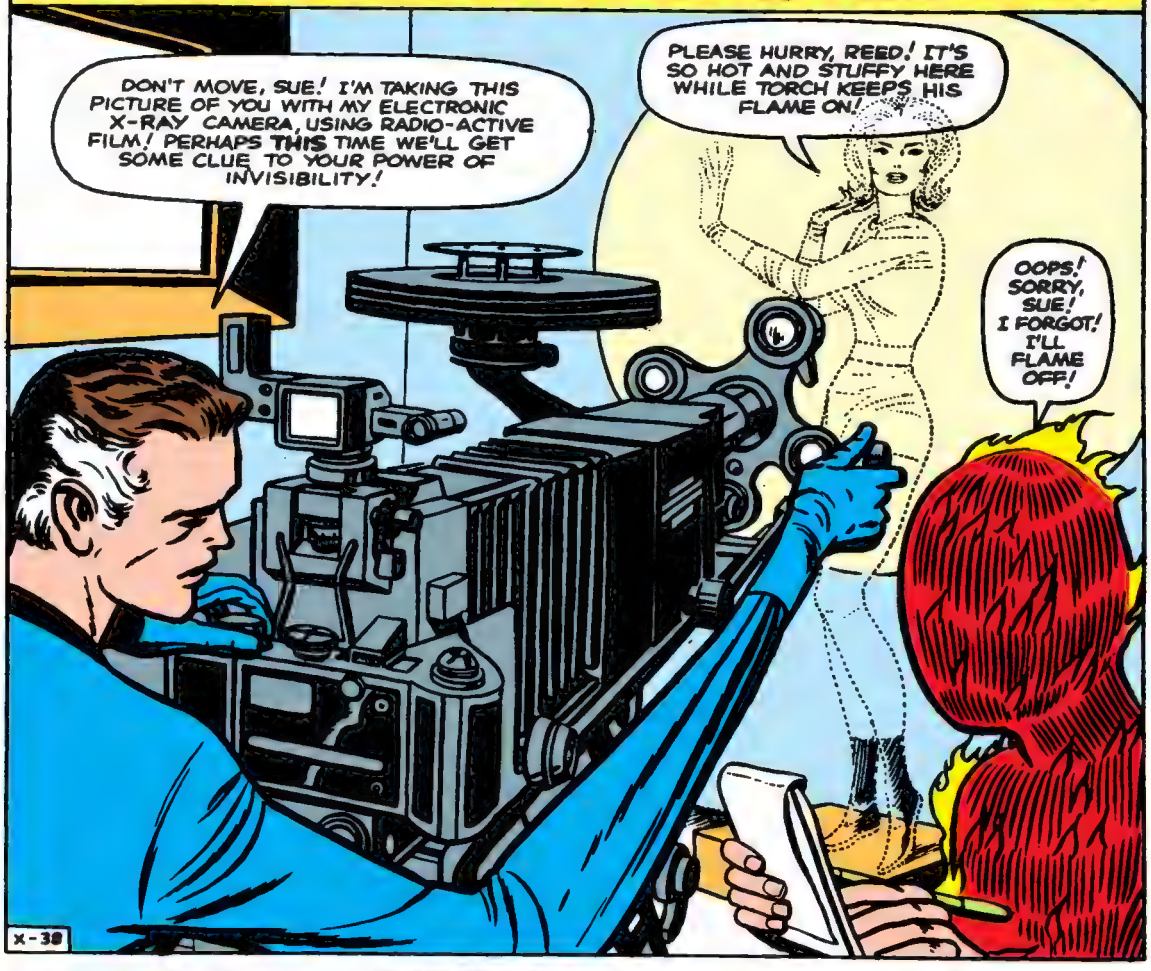
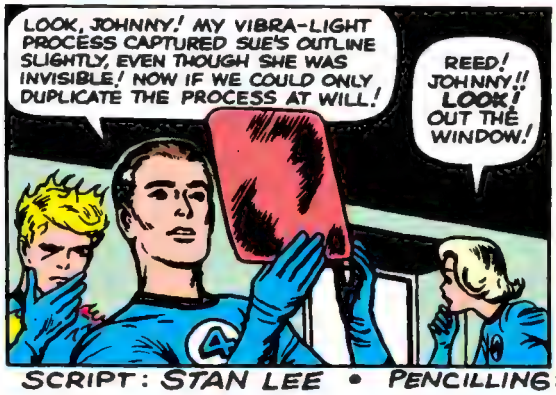
THE RETURN OF DOCTOR DOOM!


DON'T MOVE, SUE! I'M TAKING THIS PICTURE OF YOU WITH MY ELECTRONIC X-RAY CAMERA, USING RADIO-ACTIVE FILM! PERHAPS THIS TIME WE'LL GET SOME CLUE TO YOUR POWER OF INVISIBILITY!
PLEASE HURRY, REED! IT'S SO HOT AND STUFFY HERE WHILE TORCH KEEPS HIS FLAME ON!
OOPS! SORRY, SUE! I FORGOT! I'LL FLAME OFF!
X-38


LOOK, JOHNNY! MY VIBRA-LIGHT PROCESS CAPTURED SUE'S OUTLINE SLIGHTLY, EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS INVISIBLE! NOW IF WE COULD ONLY DUPLICATE THE PROCESS AT WILL!
REED! JOHNNY!! LOOK! OUT THE WINDOW!

SCRIPT: STAN LEE • PENCILLING: JACK KIRBY INKING: DICK AYERS

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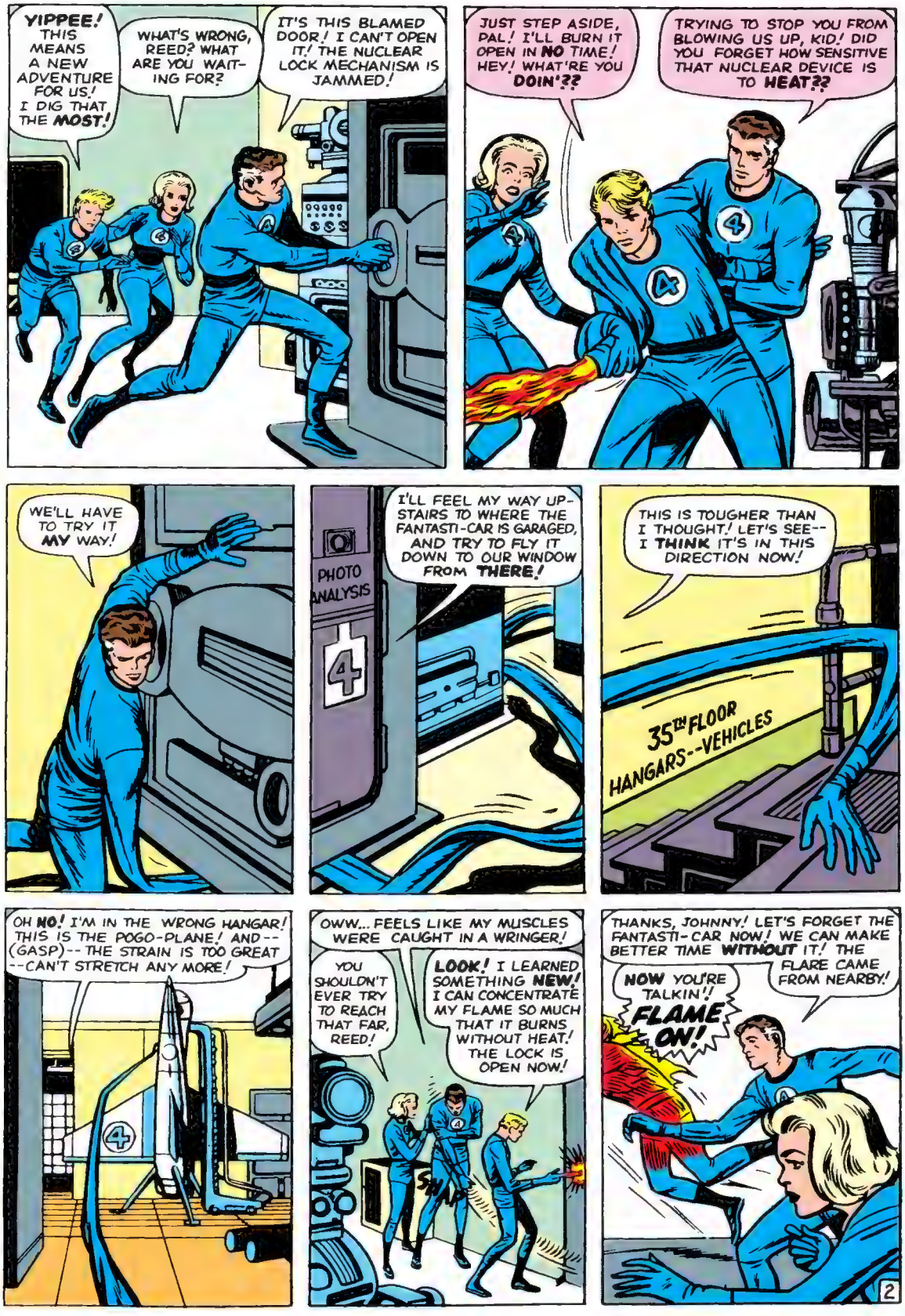
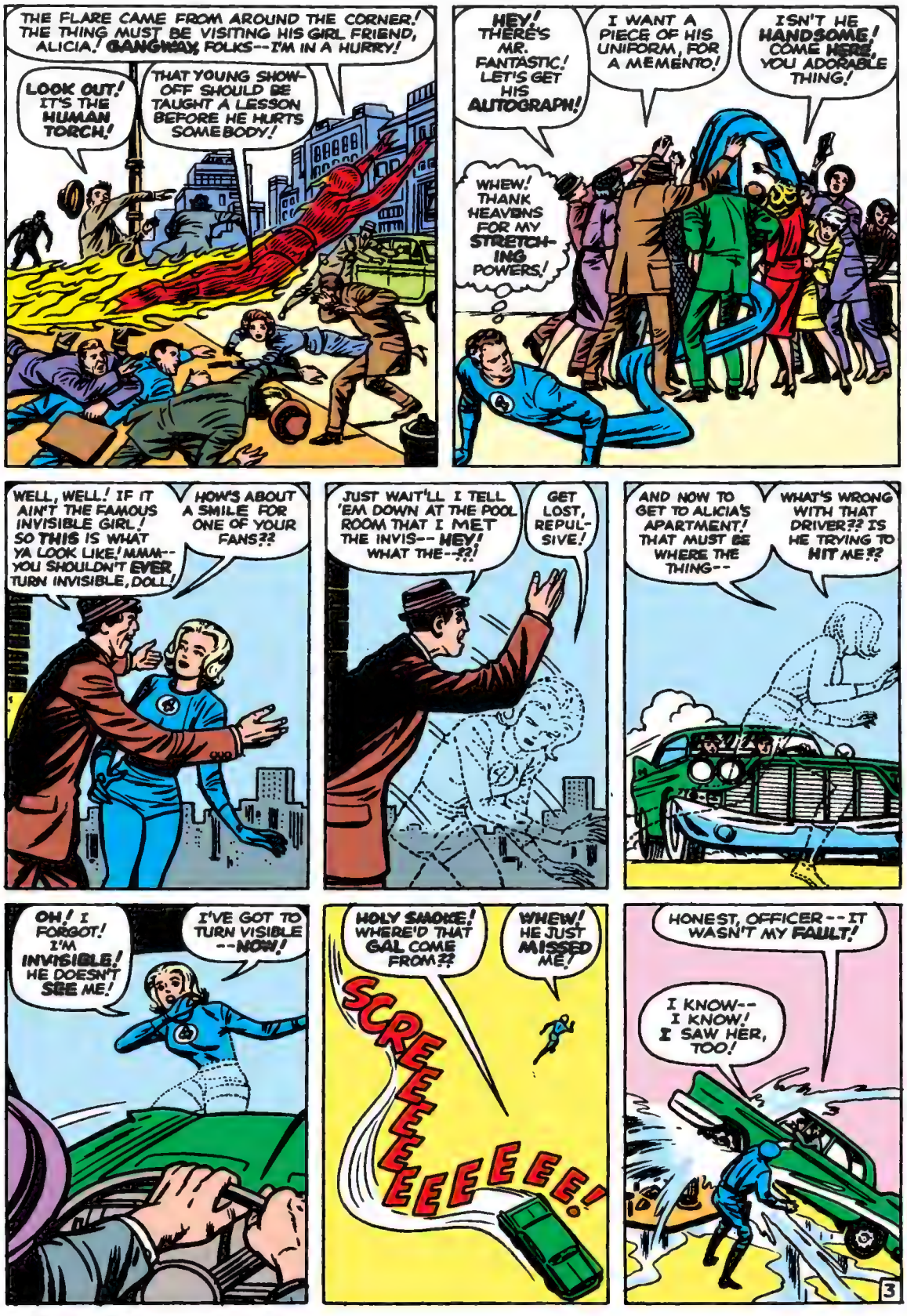
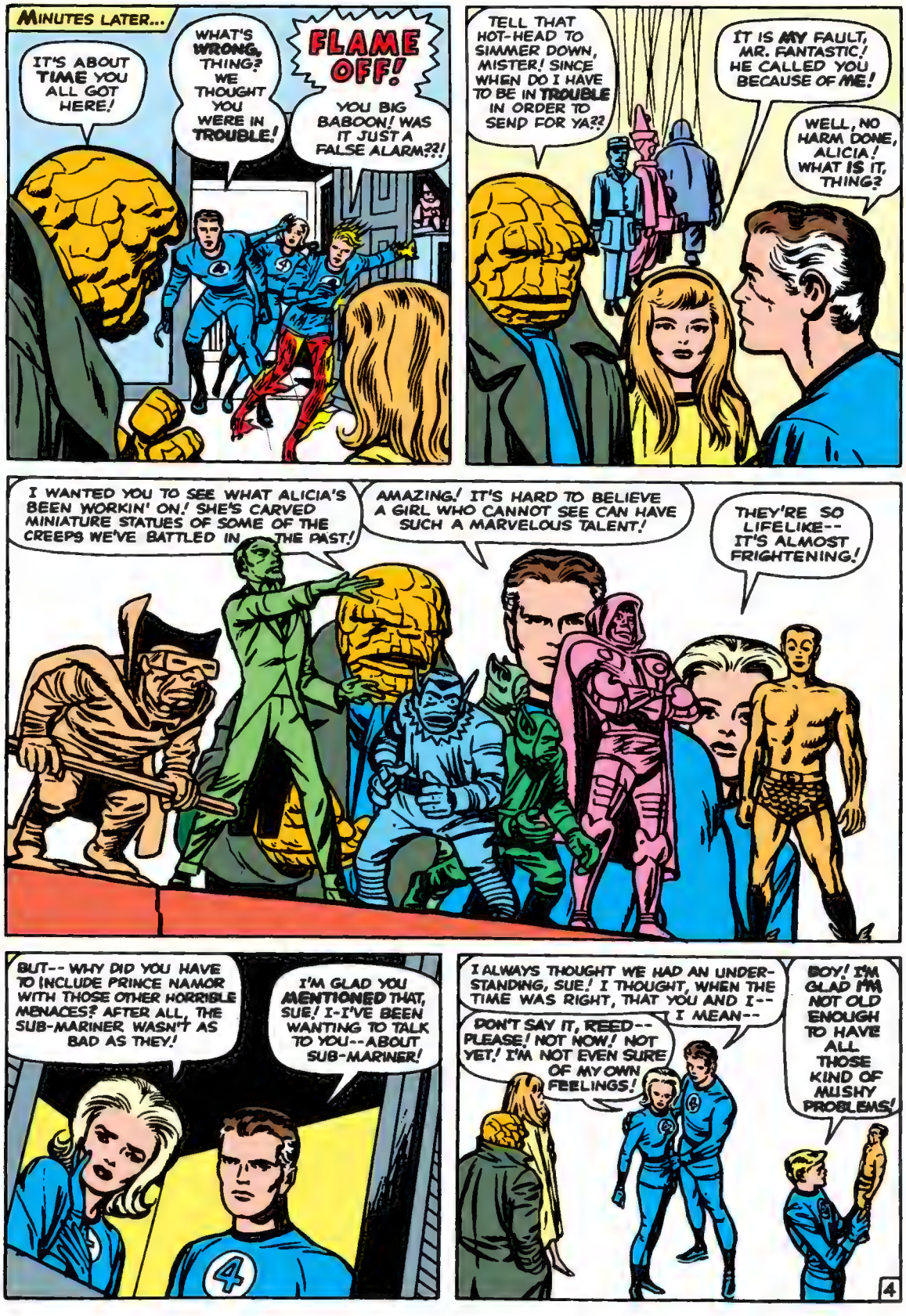
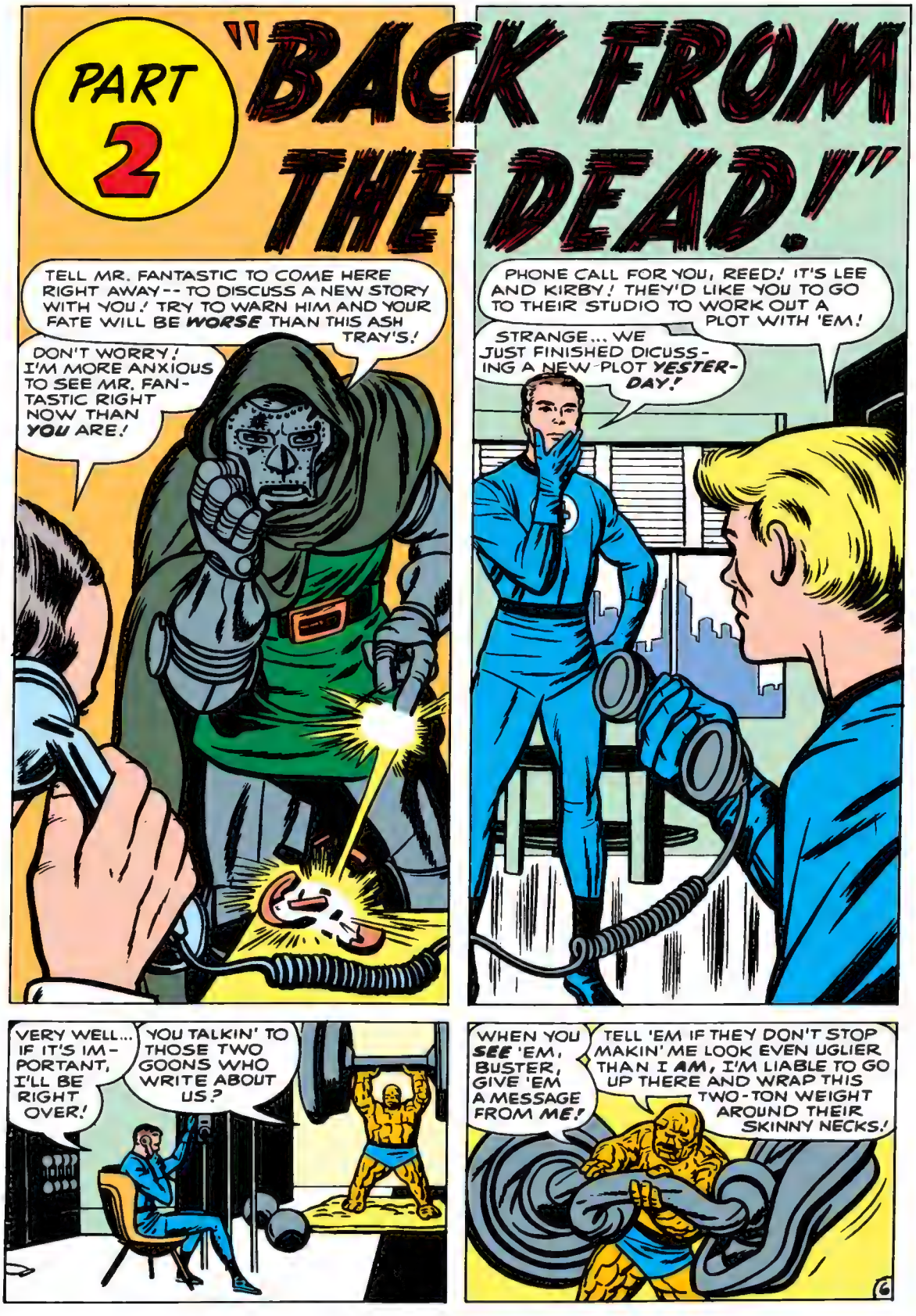
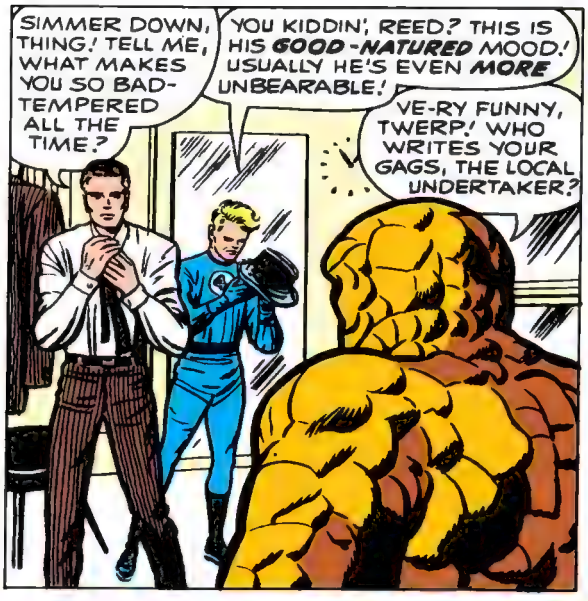

YIPPEE! THIS MEANS A NEW ADVENTURE FOR US! I DIG THAT THE MOST!
WHAT'S WRONG, REED? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
IT'S THIS BLAMED DOOR! I CAN'T OPEN IT! THE NUCLEAR LOCK MECHANISM IS JAMMED!
JUST STEP ASIDE, PAL! I'LL BURN IT OPEN IN NO TIME! HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'??
TRYING TO STOP YOU FROM BLOWING US UP, KID! DID YOU FORGET HOW SENSITIVE THAT NUCLEAR DEVICE IS TO HEAT??
WE'LL HAVE TO TRY IT MY WAY!
PHOTO ANALYSIS
I'LL FEEL MY WAY UPSTAIRS TO WHERE THE FANTASTI-CAR IS GARAGED, AND TRY TO FLY IT DOWN TO OUR WINDOW FROM THERE!
THIS IS TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT! LET'S SEE-- I THINK IT'S IN THIS DIRECTION NOW!
35TH FLOOR HANGARS--VEHICLES
OH NO! I'M IN THE WRONG HANGAR! THIS IS THE POGO-PLANE! AND-- (GASP)-- THE STRAIN IS TOO GREAT --CAN'T STRETCH ANY MORE!
OWW... FEELS LIKE MY MUSCLES WERE CAUGHT IN A WRINGER!
YOU SHOULDN'T EVER TRY TO REACH THAT FAR, REED!
LOOK! I LEARNED SOMETHING NEW! I CAN CONCENTRATE MY FLAME SO MUCH THAT IT BURNS WITHOUT HEAT! THE LOCK IS OPEN NOW!
THANKS, JOHNNY! LET'S FORGET THE FANTASTI-CAR NOW! WE CAN MAKE BETTER TIME WITHOUT IT! THE FLARE CAME FROM NEARBY!
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'! FLAME ON!
2


THE FLARE CAME FROM AROUND THE CORNER! THE THING MUST BE VISITING HIS GIRL FRIEND, ALICIA! GANGWAY, FOLKS--I'M IN A HURRY!
LOOK OUT! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!
THAT YOUNG SHOW-OFF SHOULD BE TAUGHT A LESSON BEFORE HE HURTS SOMEBODY!
HEY! THERE'S MR. FANTASTIC! LET'S GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!
I WANT A PIECE OF HIS UNIFORM, FOR A MEMENTO!
ISN'T HE HANDSOME! COME HERE, YOU ADORABLE THING!
WHEW! THANK HEAVENS FOR MY STRETCH-ING POWERS!
WELL, WELL! IF IT AIN'T THE FAMOUS INVISIBLE GIRL! SO THIS IS WHAT YA LOOK LIKE! MMM--YOU SHOULDN'T EVER TURN INVISIBLE, DOLL!
HOW'S ABOUT A SMILE FOR ONE OF YOUR FANS??
JUST WAIT'LL I TELL 'EM DOWN AT THE POOL ROOM THAT I MET THE INVIS--HEY! WHAT THE--??!
GET LOST, REPUL-SIVE!
AND NOW TO GET TO ALICIA'S APARTMENT! THAT MUST BE WHERE THE THING--
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT DRIVER?? IS HE TRYING TO HIT ME??
OH! I FORGOT! I'M INVISIBLE! HE DOESN'T SEE ME!
I'VE GOT TO TURN VISIBLE --NOW!
HOLY SMOKE! WHERE'D THAT GAL COME FROM??
WHEW! HE JUST MISSED ME!
SCREEEEEEEEEEE!
HONEST, OFFICER--IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
I KNOW--I KNOW! I SAW HER, TOO!
3

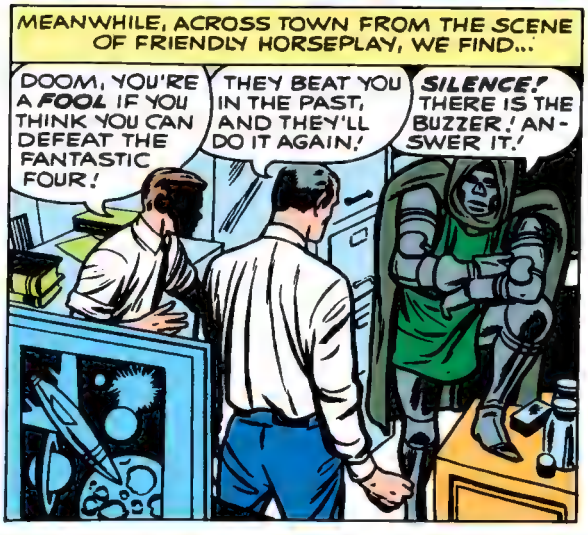

MINUTES LATER...
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU ALL GOT HERE!
WHAT'S WRONG, THING? WE THOUGHT YOU WERE IN TROUBLE!
FLAME OFF!
YOU BIG BABOON! WAS IT JUST A FALSE ALARM??!
TELL THAT HOT-HEAD TO SIMMER DOWN, MISTER! SINCE WHEN DO I HAVE TO BE IN TROUBLE IN ORDER TO SEND FOR YA??
IT IS MY FAULT, MR. FANTASTIC! HE CALLED YOU BECAUSE OF ME!
WELL, NO HARM DONE, ALICIA! WHAT IS IT, THING?
I WANTED YOU TO SEE WHAT ALICIA'S BEEN WORKIN' ON! SHE'S CARVED MINIATURE STATUES OF SOME OF THE CREEPS WE'VE BATTLED IN THE PAST!
AMAZING! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE A GIRL WHO CANNOT SEE CAN HAVE SUCH A MARVELOUS TALENT!
THEY'RE SO LIFELIKE-- IT'S ALMOST FRIGHTENING!
BUT-- WHY DID YOU HAVE TO INCLUDE PRINCE NAMOR WITH THOSE OTHER HORRIBLE MENACES? AFTER ALL, THE SUB-MARINER WASN'T AS BAD AS THEY!
I'M GLAD YOU MENTIONED THAT, SUE! I-I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU--ABOUT SUB-MARINER!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT WE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING, SUE! I THOUGHT, WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT, THAT YOU AND I-- I MEAN--
DON'T SAY IT, REED-- PLEASE! NOT NOW! NOT YET! I'M NOT EVEN SURE OF MY OWN FEELINGS!
BOY! I'M GLAD I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE ALL THOSE KIND OF MUSHY PROBLEMS!
4

AND THAT, DEAR READER, IS AS FAR AS JACK KIRBY AND I GOT WITH OUR STORY, BEFORE THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED! BUT, LET US SHOW YOU JUST HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT...OUR SCENE NOW CHANGES TO THE STUDIO OF KIRBY AND LEE, ON MADISON AVENUE, WHERE WE FIND...
HOW ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE THIS FOR OUR VILLAIN, STAN? WE CAN CALL HIM FALSE-FACE!
NOT BAD, JACK, BUT I THINK HE SOUNDS A LITTLE TOO COMMONPLACE! OUR FANS HAVE GROWN TO EXPECT REAL EXCITING SUPER VILLAINS FROM US!
ANT-MAN
HULK
THOR
TOO BAD THAT DOCTOR DOOM WAS LOST IN SPACE! HE WAS POSSIBLY THE GREATEST VILLAIN OF ALL!
YEAH! WE SURE CAN'T COME UP WITH A MENACE LIKE HIM EVERY DAY!
LEE AND KIRBY
AND THEN, IT HAPPENED!
DID SOMEONE MENTION MY NAME?
NO! IT CAN'T BE! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
BUT IT IS! IT'S DOCTOR DOOM--HE'S ALIVE!
BUT HOW?? HOW DID YOU SAVE YOURSELF FROM BEING HURLED INTO ENDLESS SPACE??*
IT IS A LONG STORY! WE WILL NOT DISCUSS IT NOW!
FAN MAIL
NOW, I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO! NOW IT IS TIME FOR MY REVENGE!
UGH! THAT FACE!
DON'T TAKE OFF YOUR MASK! DON'T!
I DO NOT BLAME YOU FOR SHRINKING FROM THE SIGHT OF ME! I STILL CANNOT BEAR TO GAZE UPON MY FACE MYSELF!
BUT I MUST REMOVE MY MASK AT TIMES--ELSE I FEEL IT WILL STRANGLE ME!
BILLS
SUSPENSE
BUT ENOUGH OF THAT! YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR A STORY--WELL, I SHALL GIVE YOU ONE! HERE, PHONE MR. FANTASTIC--SAY WHAT I TELL YOU IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES!
5
*SEE FANTASTIC FOUR #6 "THE DIABOLICAL DUO JOIN FORCES!"


PART 2
"BACK FROM THE DEAD!"
TELL MR. FANTASTIC TO COME HERE RIGHT AWAY -- TO DISCUSS A NEW STORY WITH YOU! TRY TO WARN HIM AND YOUR FATE WILL BE WORSE THAN THIS ASH TRAY'S!
DON'T WORRY! I'M MORE ANXIOUS TO SEE MR. FANTASTIC RIGHT NOW THAN YOU ARE!
PHONE CALL FOR YOU, REED! IT'S LEE AND KIRBY! THEY'D LIKE YOU TO GO TO THEIR STUDIO TO WORK OUT A PLOT WITH 'EM!
STRANGE... WE JUST FINISHED DICUSSING A NEW PLOT YESTERDAY!
VERY WELL... IF IT'S IMPORTANT, I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!
YOU TALKIN' TO THOSE TWO GOONS WHO WRITE ABOUT US?
WHEN YOU SEE 'EM, BUSTER, GIVE 'EM A MESSAGE FROM ME!
TELL 'EM IF THEY DON'T STOP MAKIN' ME LOOK EVEN UGLIER THAN I AM, I'M LIABLE TO GO UP THERE AND WRAP THIS TWO-TON WEIGHT AROUND THEIR SKINNY NECKS!
6


SIMMER DOWN, THING! TELL ME, WHAT MAKES YOU SO BAD-TEMPERED ALL THE TIME?
YOU KIDDIN', REED? THIS IS HIS GOOD-NATURED MOOD! USUALLY HE'S EVEN MORE UNBEARABLE!
VE-RY FUNNY, TWERP! WHO WRITES YOUR GAGS, THE LOCAL UNDERTAKER?

WELL, I'LL GO AND SEE WHAT LEE AND KIRBY WANT AND THEN-- HEY! LEGGO! STOP STRETCHING MY CLOTHES, YOU TWO! C'MON-- STOP IT!
AW, DON'T BE A SOURPUSS, PARTNER! WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBERED TO WEAR YOUR STRETCH-SUIT, IN CASE YOU NEED IT!
WHAT ARE YA COMPLAININ' ABOUT, RUBBER FACE? WE CAN'T MAKE YOUR CLOTHES LOOK ANY WORSE!

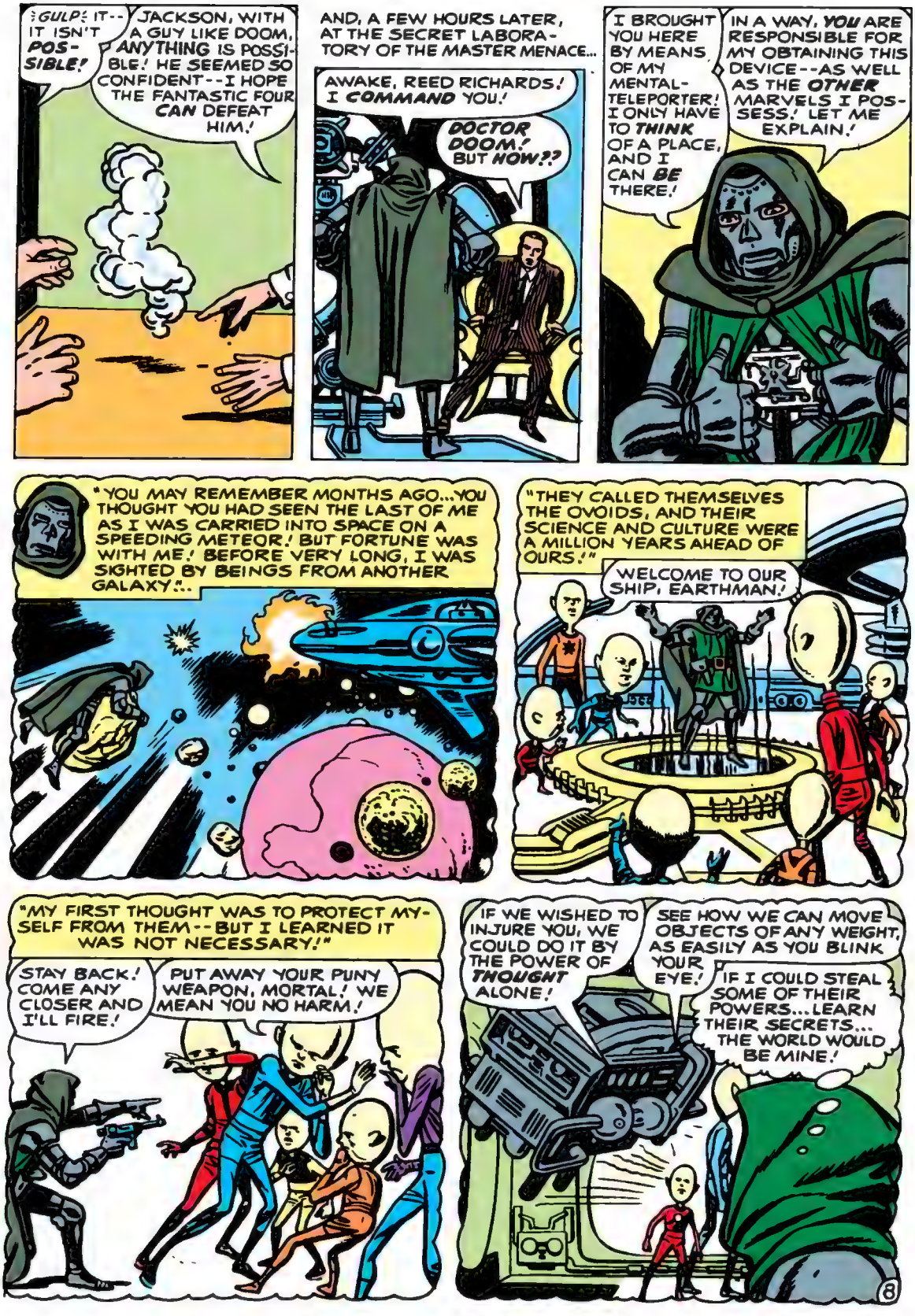

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN FROM THE SCENE OF FRIENDLY HORSEPLAY, WE FIND...
DOOM, YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THEY BEAT YOU IN THE PAST, AND THEY'LL DO IT AGAIN!
SILENCE! THERE IS THE BUZZER! ANSWER IT!

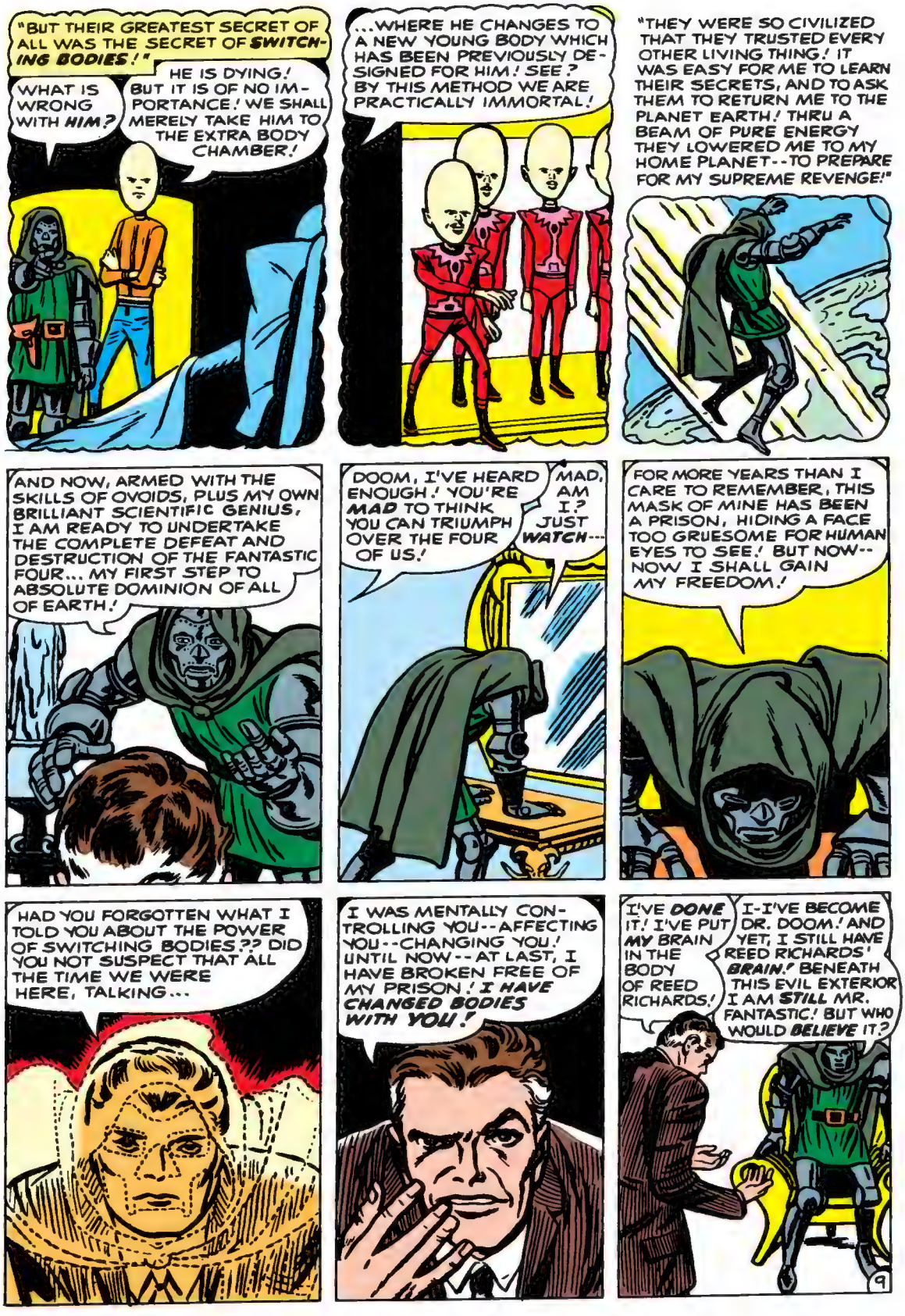
WHAT'S THAT? REED RICHARDS IS OUTSIDE? YES-- I'M EXPECTING HIM! SHOW HIM IN!
AH! MY MOMENT IS AT HAND! NOW STEP ASIDE-- QUICKLY!

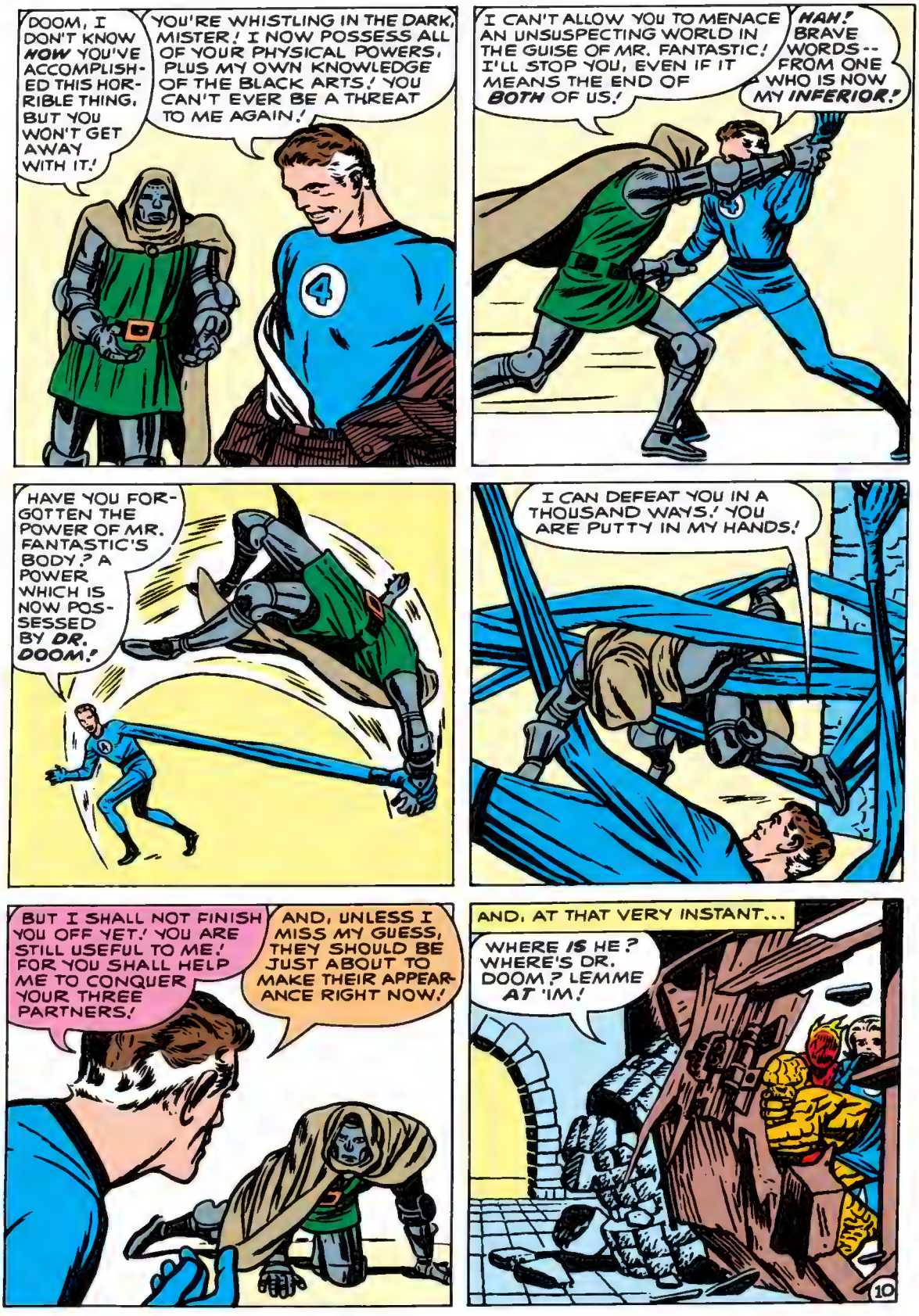
HELLO, FELLAS! I--
UGH!

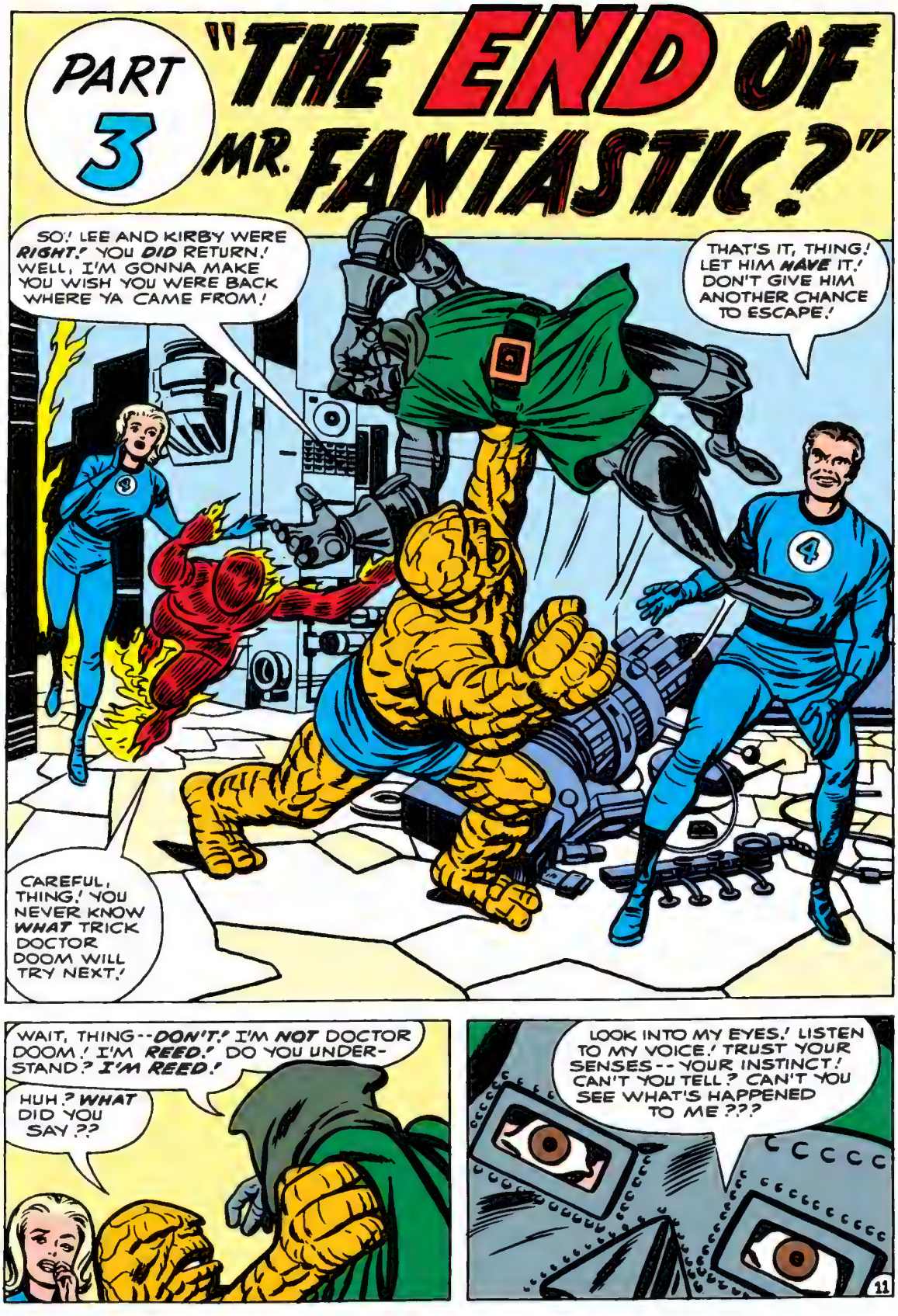
MY "SLEEPING GAS" WILL KEEP HIM HELPLESS TILL I AWAKEN HIM!
I HAVE GIVEN YOU A CARD WITH MY ADDRESS! CALL THE OTHER THREE AND TELL THEM I SHALL WAIT FOR THEM THERE!

THEY WILL GALLANTLY RUSH TO SAVE THEIR LEADER--AND THAT WILL BE THEIR UNDOING!
NOW, I SHALL LEAVE AS I ARRIVED--BY MEANS OF THE MYSTIC SCIENCE KNOWN ONLY TO DR. DOOM! FAREWELL-- FOR NOW!


GULP! IT-- IT ISN'T POS-SIBLE!
JACKSON, WITH A GUY LIKE DOOM, ANYTHING IS POSSI-BLE! HE SEEMED SO CONFIDENT--I HOPE THE FANTASTIC FOUR CAN DEFEAT HIM!
AND, A FEW HOURS LATER, AT THE SECRET LABORA-TORY OF THE MASTER MENACE...
AWAKE, REED RICHARDS! I COMMAND YOU!
DOCTOR DOOM! BUT HOW?!?
I BROUGHT YOU HERE BY MEANS OF MY MENTAL-TELEPORTER! I ONLY HAVE TO THINK OF A PLACE, AND I CAN BE THERE!
IN A WAY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OBTAINING THIS DEVICE--AS WELL AS THE OTHER MARVELS I POS-SESS! LET ME EXPLAIN!
"YOU MAY REMEMBER MONTHS AGO...YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD SEEN THE LAST OF ME AS I WAS CARRIED INTO SPACE ON A SPEEDING METEOR! BUT FORTUNE WAS WITH ME! BEFORE VERY LONG, I WAS SIGHTED BY BEINGS FROM ANOTHER GALAXY!..
"THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE OVOIDS, AND THEIR SCIENCE AND CULTURE WERE A MILLION YEARS AHEAD OF OURS!"
WELCOME TO OUR SHIP, EARTHMAN!
"MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS TO PROTECT MY-SELF FROM THEM--BUT I LEARNED IT WAS NOT NECESSARY!"
STAY BACK! COME ANY CLOSER AND I'LL FIRE!
PUT AWAY YOUR PUNY WEAPON, MORTAL! WE MEAN YOU NO HARM!
IF WE WISHED TO INJURE YOU, WE COULD DO IT BY THE POWER OF THOUGHT ALONE!
SEE HOW WE CAN MOVE OBJECTS OF ANY WEIGHT, AS EASILY AS YOU BLINK YOUR EYE!
IF I COULD STEAL SOME OF THEIR POWERS...LEARN THEIR SECRETS... THE WORLD WOULD BE MINE!
8

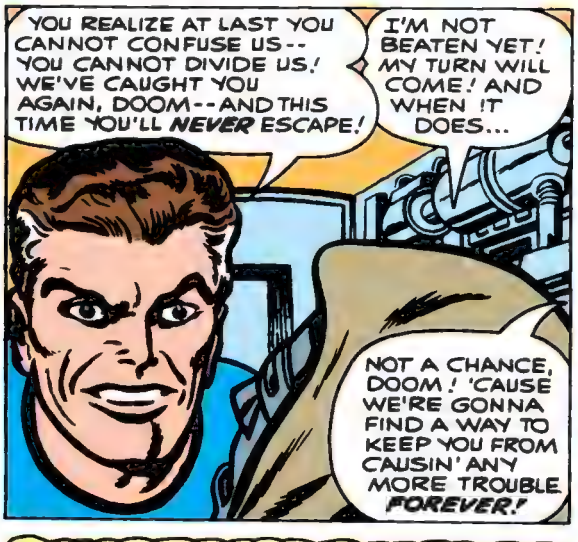

"BUT THEIR GREATEST SECRET OF ALL WAS THE SECRET OF SWITCHING BODIES!"
WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM?
HE IS DYING! BUT IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE! WE SHALL MERELY TAKE HIM TO THE EXTRA BODY CHAMBER!
...WHERE HE CHANGES TO A NEW YOUNG BODY WHICH HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DESIGNED FOR HIM! SEE? BY THIS METHOD WE ARE PRACTICALLY IMMORTAL!
"THEY WERE SO CIVILIZED THAT THEY TRUSTED EVERY OTHER LIVING THING! IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO LEARN THEIR SECRETS, AND TO ASK THEM TO RETURN ME TO THE PLANET EARTH! THRU A BEAM OF PURE ENERGY THEY LOWERED ME TO MY HOME PLANET--TO PREPARE FOR MY SUPREME REVENGE!"
AND NOW, ARMED WITH THE SKILLS OF OVOIDS, PLUS MY OWN BRILLIANT SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, I AM READY TO UNDERTAKE THE COMPLETE DEFEAT AND DESTRUCTION OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR... MY FIRST STEP TO ABSOLUTE DOMINION OF ALL OF EARTH!
DOOM, I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! YOU'RE MAD TO THINK YOU CAN TRIUMPH OVER THE FOUR OF US!
MAD, AM I? JUST WATCH---
FOR MORE YEARS THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER, THIS MASK OF MINE HAS BEEN A PRISON, HIDING A FACE TOO GRUESOME FOR HUMAN EYES TO SEE! BUT NOW--NOW I SHALL GAIN MY FREEDOM!
HAD YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE POWER OF SWITCHING BODIES?? DID YOU NOT SUSPECT THAT ALL THE TIME WE WERE HERE, TALKING...
I WAS MENTALLY CONTROLLING YOU--AFFECTING YOU--CHANGING YOU! UNTIL NOW--AT LAST, I HAVE BROKEN FREE OF MY PRISON! I HAVE CHANGED BODIES WITH YOU!
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE PUT MY BRAIN IN THE BODY OF REED RICHARDS!
I-I'VE BECOME DR. DOOM! AND YET, I STILL HAVE REED RICHARDS' BRAIN! BENEATH THIS EVIL EXTERIOR I AM STILL MR. FANTASTIC! BUT WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT?
9

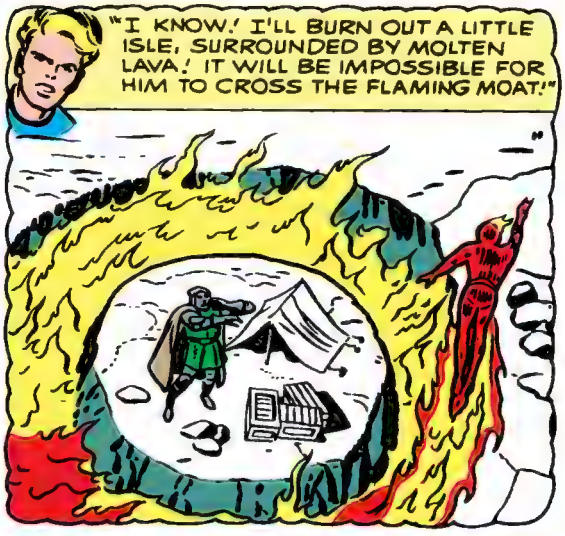

DOOM, I DON'T KNOW *HOW* YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED THIS HORRIBLE THING, BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!
YOU'RE WHISTLING IN THE DARK, MISTER! I NOW POSSESS ALL OF YOUR PHYSICAL POWERS, PLUS MY OWN KNOWLEDGE OF THE BLACK ARTS! YOU CAN'T EVER BE A THREAT TO ME AGAIN!
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO MENACE AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD IN THE GUISE OF MR. FANTASTIC! I'LL STOP YOU, EVEN IF IT MEANS THE END OF *BOTH* OF US!
HAH! BRAVE WORDS-- FROM ONE WHO IS NOW *MY INFERIOR!*
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE POWER OF MR. FANTASTIC'S BODY? A POWER WHICH IS NOW POSSESSED BY *DR. DOOM!*
I CAN DEFEAT YOU IN A THOUSAND WAYS! YOU ARE PUTTY IN MY HANDS!
BUT I SHALL NOT FINISH YOU OFF YET! YOU ARE STILL USEFUL TO ME! FOR YOU SHALL HELP ME TO CONQUER YOUR THREE PARTNERS!
AND, UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THEY SHOULD BE JUST ABOUT TO MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE RIGHT NOW!
AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT...
WHERE *IS* HE? WHERE'S DR. DOOM? LEMME *AT* 'IM!

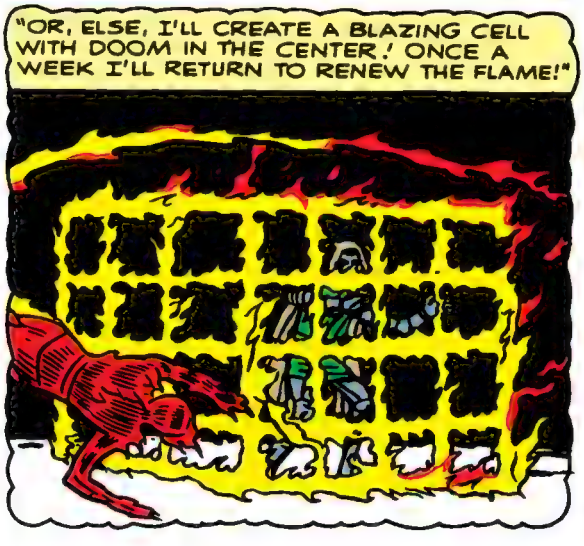

PART 3
"THE END OF MR. FANTASTIC?"
SO! LEE AND KIRBY WERE RIGHT! YOU DID RETURN! WELL, I'M GONNA MAKE YOU WISH YOU WERE BACK WHERE YA CAME FROM!
THAT'S IT, THING! LET HIM HAVE IT! DON'T GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
CAREFUL, THING! YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT TRICK DOCTOR DOOM WILL TRY NEXT!
WAIT, THING--DON'T! I'M NOT DOCTOR DOOM! I'M REED! DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M REED!
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY??
LOOK INTO MY EYES! LISTEN TO MY VOICE! TRUST YOUR SENSES--YOUR INSTINCT! CAN'T YOU TELL? CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME???
11

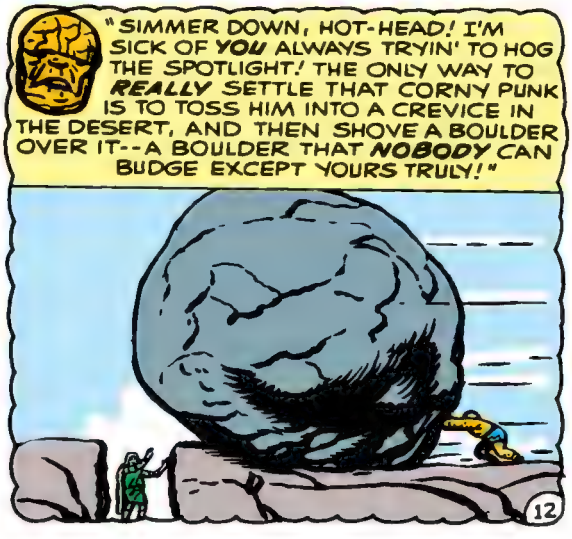
DON'T LET HIM CONFUSE YOU, THING! YOU KNOW HOW TRICKY HE IS! DON'T LET HIM BREAK FREE!
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME THAT! I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY!
WHY WOULD AN EVIL GENIUS LIKE DOCTOR DOOM TRY TO FOOL US WITH SUCH A RIDICULOUS STORY?

OF COURSE HE'S TRYING TO TRICK US! EVEN NOW, WHILE HE'S PLEADING FOR MERCY, HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED US BY USING THIS ATOMIC-MATTER SCRAMBLER WHICH WAS CONCEALED IN HIS ARMOR!
NO! NO! I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS THERE! DON'T BELIEVE HIM, THING--LISTEN TO ME!
SHUT YOUR YAP, PLAYMATE, BEFORE I SHUT IT FOR GOOD!


YOU REALIZE AT LAST YOU CANNOT CONFUSE US--YOU CANNOT DIVIDE US! WE'VE CAUGHT YOU AGAIN, DOOM--AND THIS TIME YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE!
I'M NOT BEATEN YET! MY TURN WILL COME! AND WHEN IT DOES...
NOT A CHANCE, DOOM! 'CAUSE WE'RE GONNA FIND A WAY TO KEEP YOU FROM CAUSIN' ANY MORE TROUBLE FOREVER!


"I KNOW! I'LL BURN OUT A LITTLE ISLE, SURROUNDED BY MOLTEN LAVA! IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO CROSS THE FLAMING MOAT!"

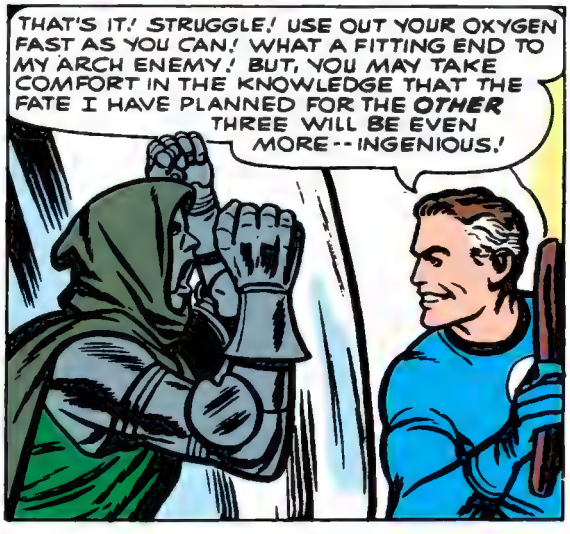

"OR, ELSE, I'LL CREATE A BLAZING CELL WITH DOOM IN THE CENTER! ONCE A WEEK I'LL RETURN TO RENEW THE FLAME!"


"SIMMER DOWN, HOT-HEAD! I'M SICK OF YOU ALWAYS TRYIN' TO HOG THE SPOTLIGHT! THE ONLY WAY TO REALLY SETTLE THAT CORNY PUNK IS TO TOSS HIM INTO A CREVICE IN THE DESERT, AND THEN SHOVE A BOULDER OVER IT--A BOULDER THAT NOBODY CAN BUDGE EXCEPT YOURS TRULY!"

THOSE ARE EXCELLENT SUGGESTIONS, BOYS--BUT I'VE A BETTER IDEA! WE'LL LOCK HIM IN THE VERY CHAMBER HE HAD PREPARED FOR US!

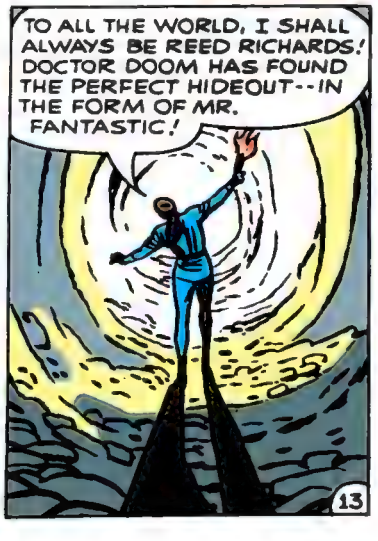
AND, A MOMENT LATER...
WOW! A THICK, UNBREAKABLE PLEXI-GLASS PRISON! BUT WHAT IF HE RUNS OUT OF AIR! WE DON'T WANNA MURDER THE CREEP!
DON'T WORRY, THING! THERE IS SUFFICENT AIR WITHIN THE DOME! HE'LL BE SAFE UNTIL WE CAN FIND A PERMANENT WAY TO RENDER HIM HARLESS!
BRRR--THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

AHH! THE OTHERS HAVE LEFT!
I DIDN'T FEEL IT NECESSARY TO TELL THEM THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH OXYGEN IN THOSE CYLINDERS TO LAST FOR ONE HOUR! AND, AFTER THAT--WELL, ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN!

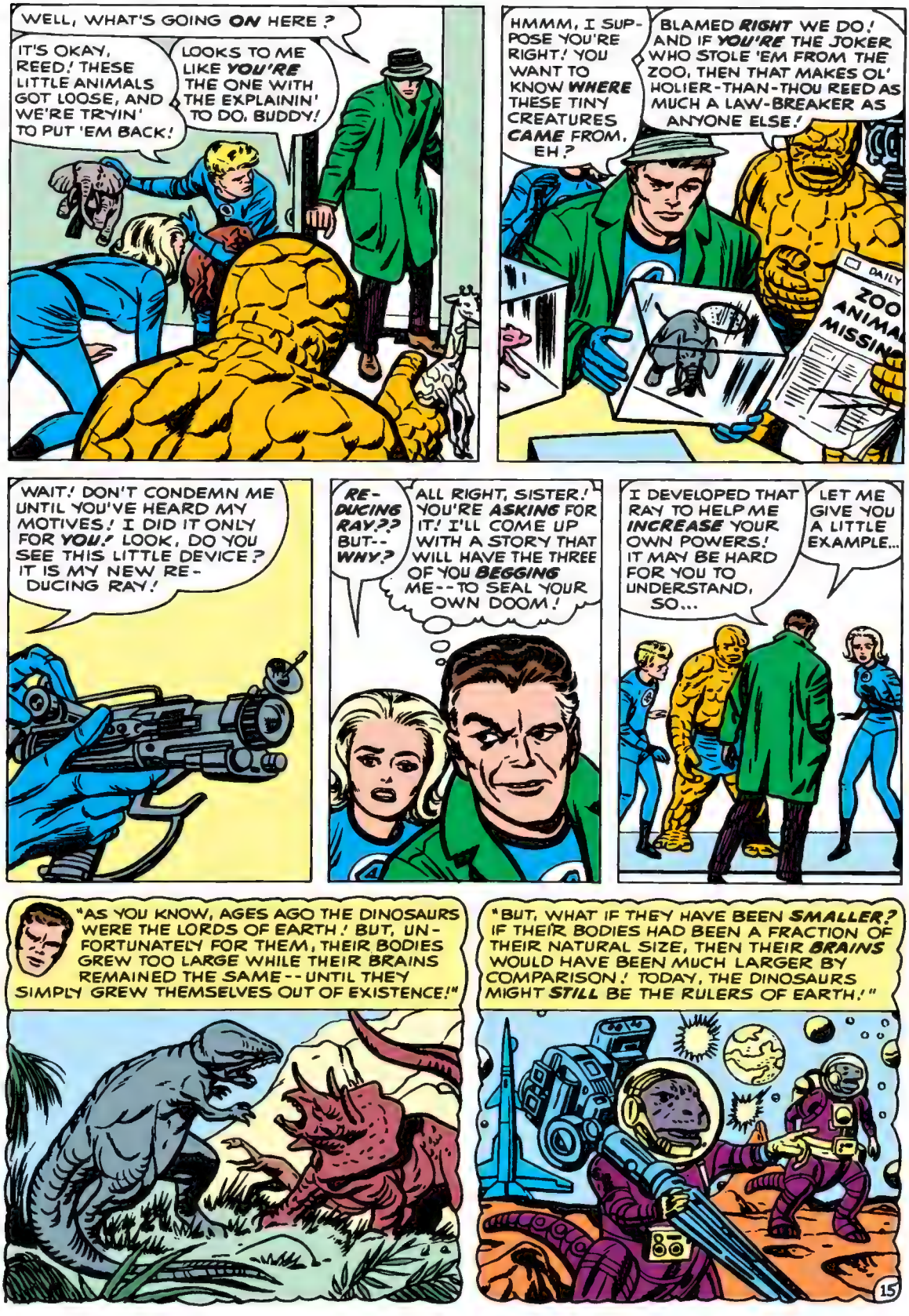

THAT'S IT! STRUGGLE! USE OUT YOUR OXYGEN FAST AS YOU CAN! WHAT A FITTING END TO MY ARCH ENEMY! BUT, YOU MAY TAKE COMFORT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE FATE I HAVE PLANNED FOR THE OTHER THREE WILL BE EVEN MORE--INGENIOUS!

AND SO, FAREWELL! YOU HAVE BEEN DOUBLY IMPRISONED--IMPRISONED BEHIND UNBREAKABLE GLASS--AND IMPRISONED FOREVER IN ANOTHER BODY!

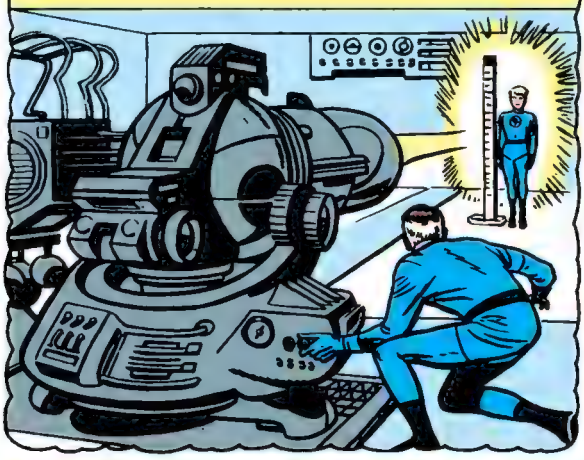
HOW SWEET IS MY REVENGE! NEVER WAS A TRIUMPH SO COMPLETE--SO GLORIOUS! AND NO ONE SHALL EVER KNOW!


TO ALL THE WORLD, I SHALL ALWAYS BE REED RICHARDS! DOCTOR DOOM HAS FOUND THE PERFECT HIDEOUT--IN THE FORM OF MR. FANTASTIC!

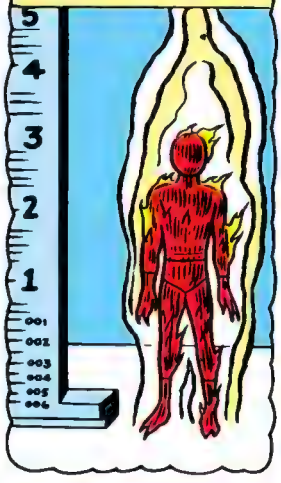
PART 4
"NO PLACE TO TURN!"
A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HEADQUATERS...
SAY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON, SUE? WHERE'D YOU GET THE TOY ANIMALS?
THEY'RE NOT TOYS, JOHNNY! INCREDIBLE AS IT SEEMS, THEY'RE ALIVE! THEY RAN OUT WHEN WE OPENED REED'S LAB DOOR!
I DON'T GET IT! WHAT NEW EXPERIMENT IS HE WORKIN' ON NOW? AND HOW DOES IT TIE UP TO THIS NEWSPAPER HEADLINE??
DAILY BULLETIN
ZOO ANIMALS MISSING
WELL, WE'D BETTER ROUND 'EM UP AND RETURN 'EM TO THE LAB BEFORE REED GETS BACK!
YES! YOU KNOW HOW ANGRY HE GETS IF ANYONE INTERFERES WITH HIS WORK!
BIG DEAL! SO WHAT'LL HE DO TO ME--SLAP MY WRIST??! COME HERE, YA PESTY CRITTER!
14


WELL, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ?
IT'S OKAY, REED! THESE LITTLE ANIMALS GOT LOOSE, AND WE'RE TRYIN' TO PUT 'EM BACK!
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE EXPLAININ' TO DO, BUDDY!
HMMM, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE THESE TINY CREATURES CAME FROM, EH?
BLAMED RIGHT WE DO! AND IF YOU'RE THE JOKER WHO STOLE 'EM FROM THE ZOO, THEN THAT MAKES OL' HOLIER-THAN-THOU REED AS MUCH A LAW-BREAKER AS ANYONE ELSE!
DAILY
ZOO
WAIT! DON'T CONDEMN ME UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD MY MOTIVES! I DID IT ONLY FOR YOU! LOOK, DO YOU SEE THIS LITTLE DEVICE? IT IS MY NEW REDUCING RAY!
REDUCING RAY?? BUT-- WHY?
ALL RIGHT, SISTER! YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT! I'LL COME UP WITH A STORY THAT WILL HAVE THE THREE OF YOU BEGGING ME--TO SEAL YOUR OWN DOOM!
I DEVELOPED THAT RAY TO HELP ME INCREASE YOUR OWN POWERS! IT MAY BE HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, SO...
LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE EXAMPLE...
"AS YOU KNOW, AGES AGO THE DINOSAURS WERE THE LORDS OF EARTH! BUT, UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, THEIR BODIES GREW TOO LARGE WHILE THEIR BRAINS REMAINED THE SAME--UNTIL THEY SIMPLY GREW THEMSELVES OUT OF EXISTENCE!"
"BUT, WHAT IF THEY HAVE BEEN SMALLER? IF THEIR BODIES HAD BEEN A FRACTION OF THEIR NATURAL SIZE, THEN THEIR BRAINS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH LARGER BY COMPARISON! TODAY, THE DINOSAURS MIGHT STILL BE THE RULERS OF EARTH!"

"I INTEND TO USE MY REDUCING DEVICE INSIDE OF OUR NUCLEAR POWERED ATOMIC ACTIVATOR, AND TO SUBJECT ***EACH*** OF US TO ITS RAYS! FOR A SHORT TIME, WE WILL EACH BE REDUCED TO A FRACTION OF OUR NORMAL SIZES.".

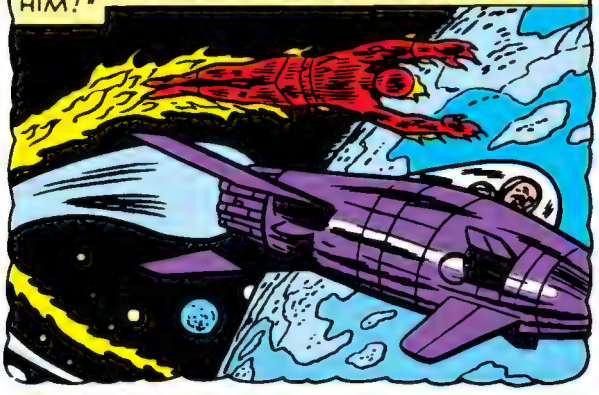


"TAKE THE TORCH, FOR INSTANCE... IMAGINE IF HE COULD SHRINK TO A MUCH SMALLER SIZE.".

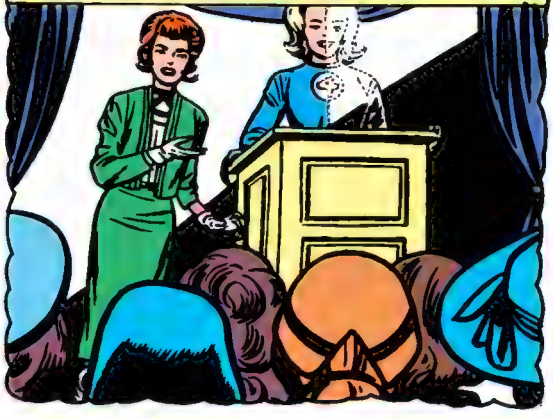


"AND, WHILE SHRINKING, IMAGINE IF HE COULD STILL RETAIN ALL OF HIS AMAZING POWERS!..

"THEN AFTER RETURNING TO HIS NORMAL SIZE AGAIN, HE WOULD FIND THAT HIS POWERS HAD ***INCREASED!*** HE COULD MAINTAIN HIS FLAME FOR A MUCH LONGER PERIOD OF TIME-- HE COULD OUTFLY A JET -- HE COULD DO MANY THINGS THAT ARE AS YET IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM!"

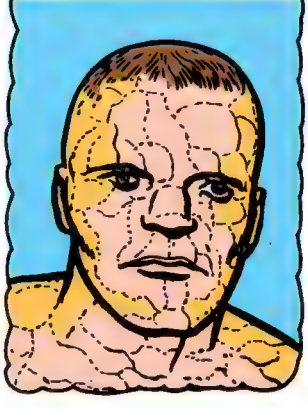


"AS FOR SUE, ONCE ***HER*** POWERS WERE INCREASED, SHE COULD MAKE ANY ***PART*** OF HER BODY INVISIBLE BY SIMPLY WISHING IT! AND SHE COULD CONTROL HER INVISIBILITY FOR AS LONG AS SHE WISHED!"

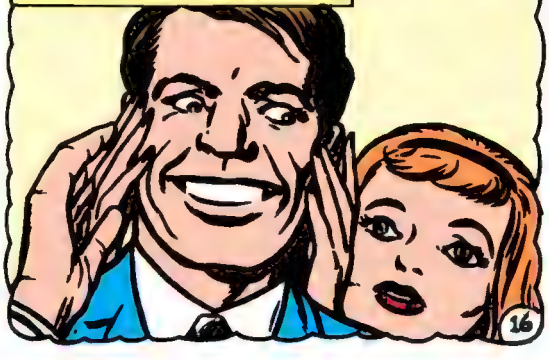


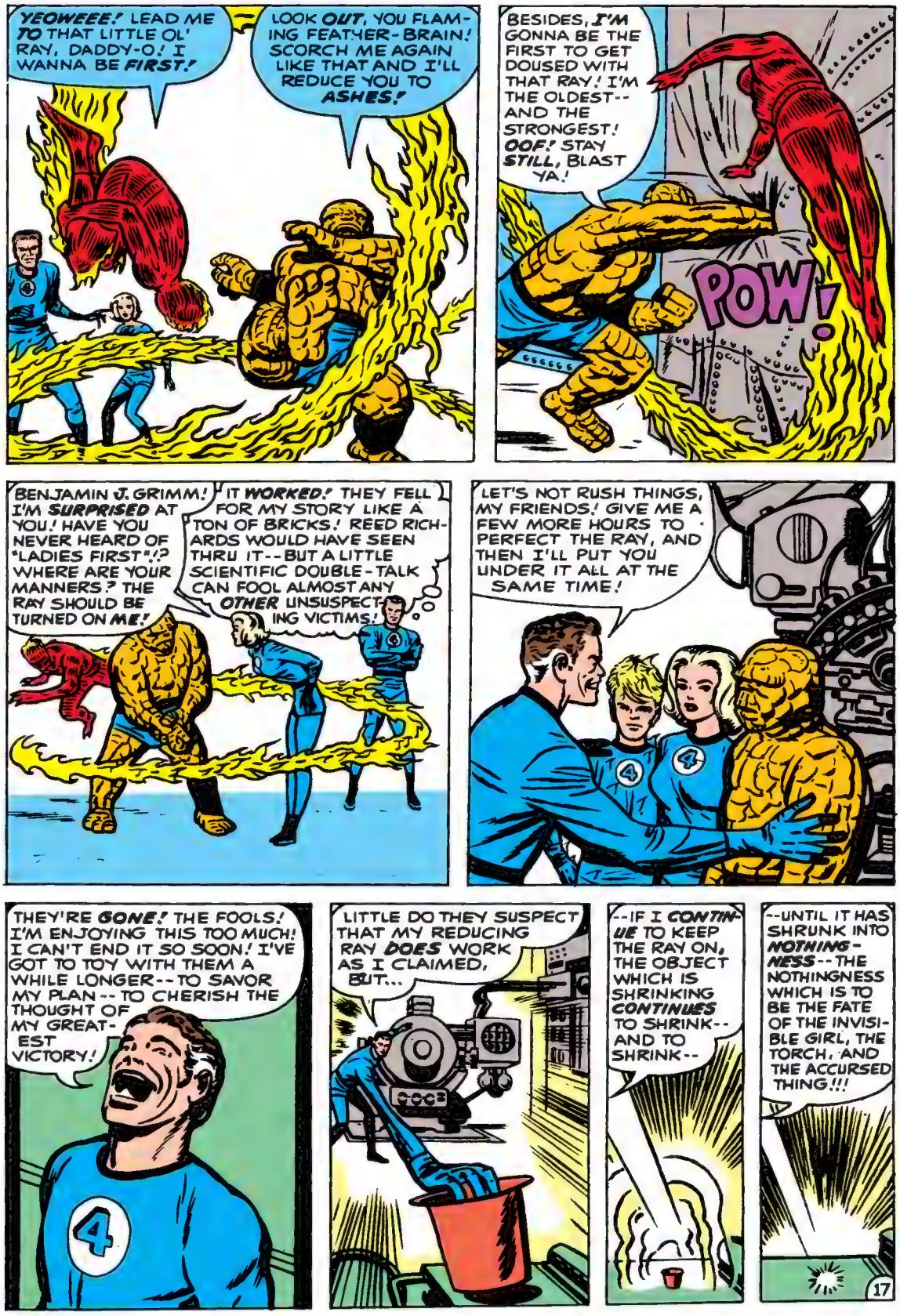
"AND ***YOU***, THING...HOW DESPERATELY YOU HAVE WISHED TO BECOME HUMAN AGAIN!"

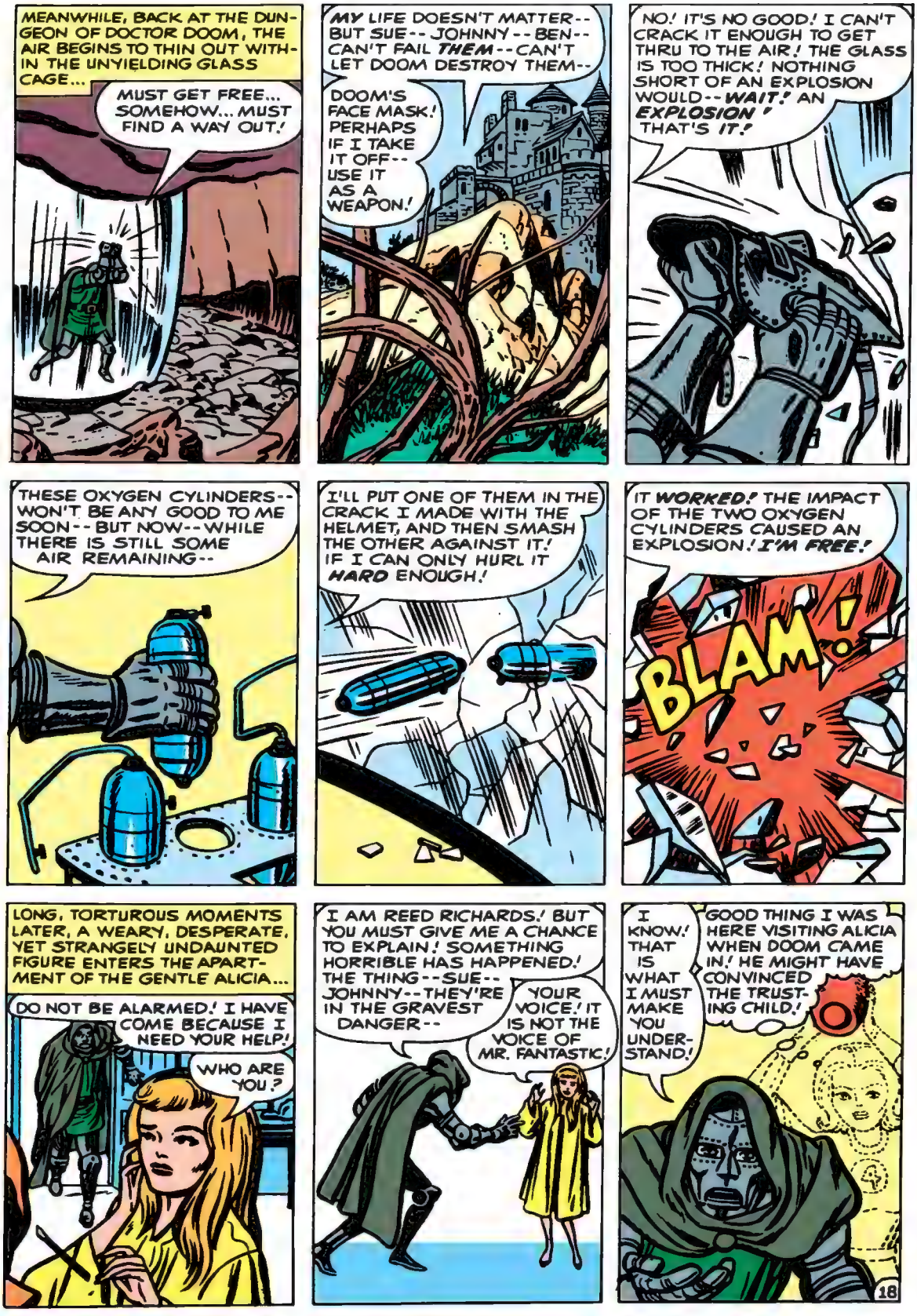
"WELL, ONCE YOUR POWERS HAVE BEEN MAGNIFIED THRU MY RAY, YOU WILL ACHIEVE YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!"

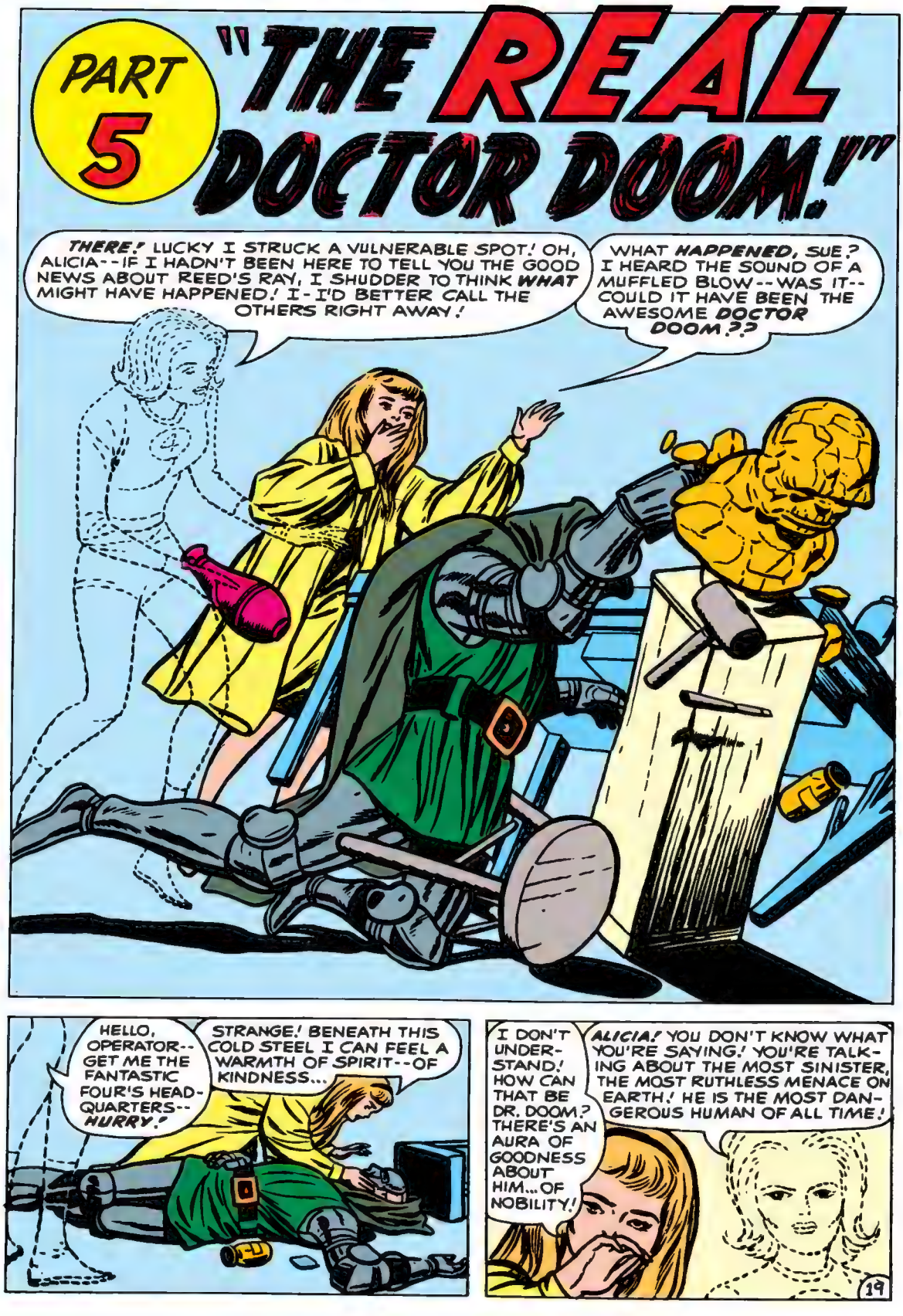


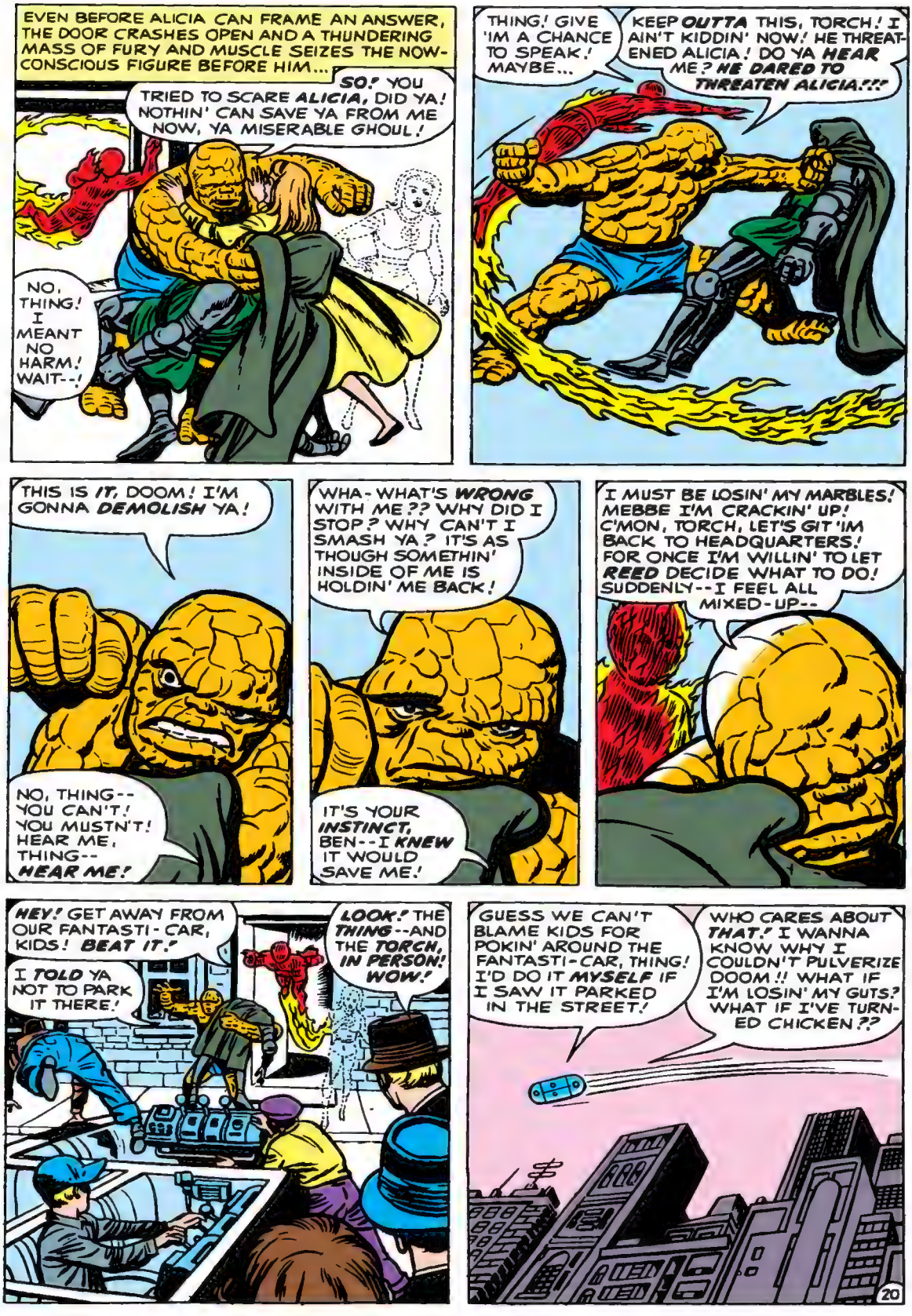
"***THINK***, BEN GRIMM! THINK OF BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL SELF BY MERELY ***WISHING*** IT! THINK WHAT MY RAY MIGHT MEAN TO YOU -- TO YOUR LOVED ONE, ALICIA! AND NOW -- NOW TELL ME THAT I SHOULD NOT HAVE BROKEN THE LAW BY "BORROWING" THOSE ANIMALS TO EXPERIMENT UPON!"



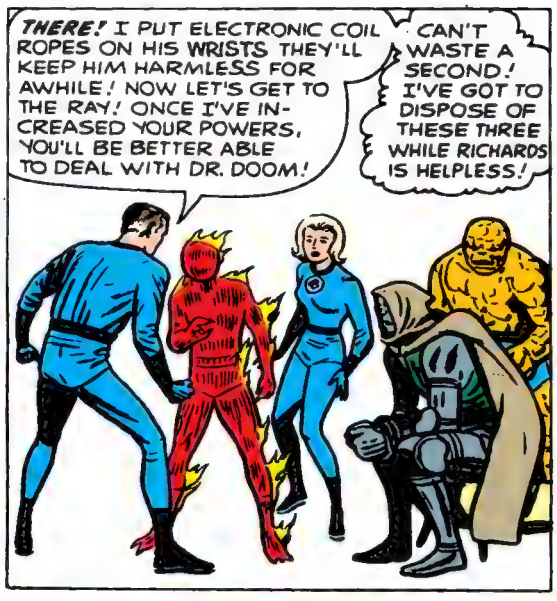

YEOWEEE! LEAD ME TO THAT LITTLE OL' RAY, DADDY-O! I WANNA BE FIRST!
LOOK OUT, YOU FLAMING FEATHER-BRAIN! SCORCH ME AGAIN LIKE THAT AND I'LL REDUCE YOU TO ASHES!
BESIDES, I'M GONNA BE THE FIRST TO GET DOUSED WITH THAT RAY! I'M THE OLDEST--AND THE STRONGEST! OOF! STAY STILL, BLAST YA!
POW!
BENJAMIN J. GRIMM! I'M SURPRISED AT YOU! HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD OF "LADIES FIRST"!? WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS? THE RAY SHOULD BE TURNED ON ME!
IT WORKED! THEY FELL FOR MY STORY LIKE A TON OF BRICKS! REED RICHARDS WOULD HAVE SEEN THRU IT--BUT A LITTLE SCIENTIFIC DOUBLE-TALK CAN FOOL ALMOST ANY OTHER UNSUSPECTING VICTIMS!
LET'S NOT RUSH THINGS, MY FRIENDS! GIVE ME A FEW MORE HOURS TO PERFECT THE RAY, AND THEN I'LL PUT YOU UNDER IT ALL AT THE SAME TIME!
THEY'RE GONE! THE FOOLS! I'M ENJOYING THIS TOO MUCH! I CAN'T END IT SO SOON! I'VE GOT TO TOY WITH THEM A WHILE LONGER--TO SAVOR MY PLAN--TO CHERISH THE THOUGHT OF MY GREATEST VICTORY!
LITTLE DO THEY SUSPECT THAT MY REDUCING RAY DOES WORK AS I CLAIMED, BUT...
--IF I CONTINUE TO KEEP THE RAY ON, THE OBJECT WHICH IS SHRINKING CONTINUES TO SHRINK--AND TO SHRINK--
--UNTIL IT HAS SHRUNK INTO NOTHINGNESS--THE NOTHINGNESS WHICH IS TO BE THE FATE OF THE INVISIBLE GIRL, THE TORCH, AND THE ACCURSED THING!!!
17

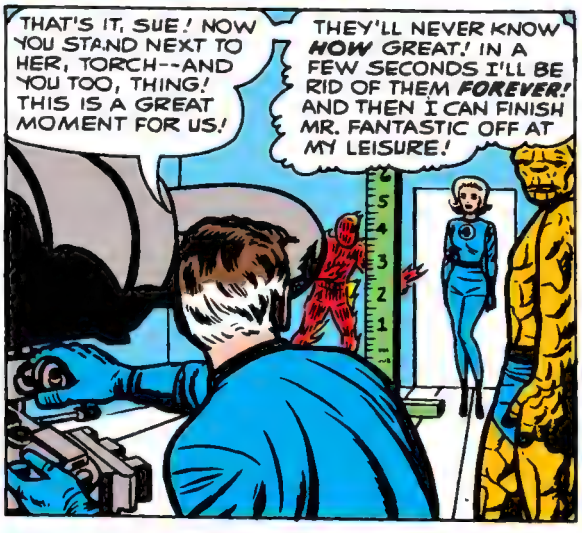

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE DUNGEON OF DOCTOR DOOM, THE AIR BEGINS TO THIN OUT WITHIN THE UNYIELDING GLASS CAGE...
MUST GET FREE... SOMEHOW... MUST FIND A WAY OUT!
MY LIFE DOESN'T MATTER--BUT SUE--JOHNNY--BEN--CAN'T FAIL THEM--CAN'T LET DOOM DESTROY THEM--
DOOM'S FACE MASK! PERHAPS IF I TAKE IT OFF--USE IT AS A WEAPON!
NO! IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T CRACK IT ENOUGH TO GET THRU TO THE AIR! THE GLASS IS TOO THICK! NOTHING SHORT OF AN EXPLOSION WOULD--WAIT! AN EXPLOSION! THAT'S IT!
THESE OXYGEN CYLINDERS--WON'T BE ANY GOOD TO ME SOON--BUT NOW--WHILE THERE IS STILL SOME AIR REMAINING--
I'LL PUT ONE OF THEM IN THE CRACK I MADE WITH THE HELMET, AND THEN SMASH THE OTHER AGAINST IT! IF I CAN ONLY HURL IT HARD ENOUGH!
IT WORKED! THE IMPACT OF THE TWO OXYGEN CYLINDERS CAUSED AN EXPLOSION! I'M FREE!
BLAM!
LONG, TORTUROUS MOMENTS LATER, A WEARY, DESPERATE, YET STRANGELY UNDAUNTED FIGURE ENTERS THE APARTMENT OF THE GENTLE ALICIA...
DO NOT BE ALARMED! I HAVE COME BECAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP!
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM REED RICHARDS! BUT YOU MUST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN! SOMETHING HORRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! THE THING--SUE--JOHNNY--THEY'RE IN THE GRAVEST DANGER--
YOUR VOICE! IT IS NOT THE VOICE OF MR. FANTASTIC!
I KNOW! THAT IS WHAT I MUST MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND!
GOOD THING I WAS HERE VISITING ALICIA WHEN DOOM CAME IN! HE MIGHT HAVE CONVINCED THE TRUSTING CHILD!
18

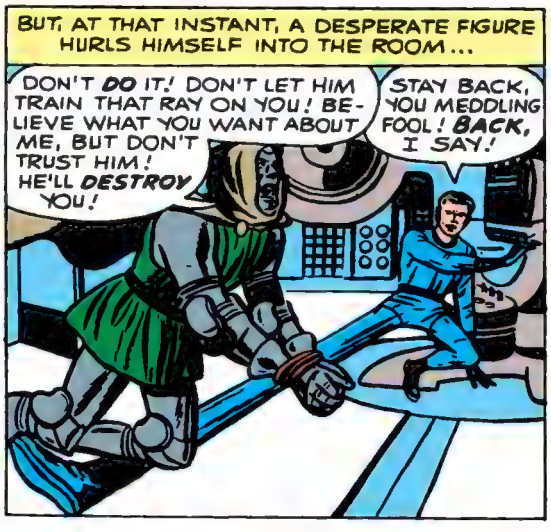

PART 5
"THE REAL DOCTOR DOOM!"
THERE! LUCKY I STRUCK A VULNERABLE SPOT! OH, ALICIA--IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE TO TELL YOU THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT REED'S RAY, I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED! I-I'D BETTER CALL THE OTHERS RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT HAPPENED, SUE? I HEARD THE SOUND OF A MUFFLED BLOW--WAS IT--COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE AWESOME DOCTOR DOOM??
HELLO, OPERATOR--GET ME THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HEADQUARTERS--HURRY!
STRANGE! BENEATH THIS COLD STEEL I CAN FEEL A WARMTH OF SPIRIT--OF KINDNESS...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW CAN THAT BE DR. DOOM? THERE'S AN AURA OF GOODNESS ABOUT HIM...OF NOBILITY!
ALICIA! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MOST SINISTER, THE MOST RUTHLESS MENACE ON EARTH! HE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS HUMAN OF ALL TIME!
19


EVEN BEFORE ALICIA CAN FRAME AN ANSWER, THE DOOR CRASHES OPEN AND A THUNDERING MASS OF FURY AND MUSCLE SEIZES THE NOW-CONSCIOUS FIGURE BEFORE HIM...
SO! YOU TRIED TO SCARE ALICIA, DID YA! NOTHIN' CAN SAVE YA FROM ME NOW, YA MISERABLE GHOUL!
NO, THING! I MEANT NO HARM! WAIT--!
THING! GIVE 'IM A CHANCE TO SPEAK! MAYBE...
KEEP OUTTA THIS, TORCH! I AIN'T KIDDIN' NOW! HE THREATENED ALICIA! DO YA HEAR ME? HE DARED TO THREATEN ALICIA!!!
THIS IS IT, DOOM! I'M GONNA DEMOLISH YA!
NO, THING-- YOU CAN'T! YOU MUSTN'T! HEAR ME, THING-- HEAR ME!
WHA-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?? WHY DID I STOP? WHY CAN'T I SMASH YA? IT'S AS THOUGH SOMETHIN' INSIDE OF ME IS HOLDIN' ME BACK!
IT'S YOUR INSTINCT, BEN--I KNEW IT WOULD SAVE ME!
I MUST BE LOSIN' MY MARBLES! MEBBE I'M CRACKIN' UP! C'MON, TORCH, LET'S GIT 'IM BACK TO HEADQUARTERS! FOR ONCE I'M WILLIN' TO LET REED DECIDE WHAT TO DO! SUDDENLY--I FEEL ALL MIXED-UP--
HEY! GET AWAY FROM OUR FANTASTI-CAR, KIDS! BEAT IT!
I TOLD YA NOT TO PARK IT THERE!
LOOK! THE THING--AND THE TORCH, IN PERSON! WOW!
GUESS WE CAN'T BLAME KIDS FOR POKIN' AROUND THE FANTASTI-CAR, THING! I'D DO IT MYSELF IF I SAW IT PARKED IN THE STREET!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT! I WANNA KNOW WHY I COULDN'T PULVERIZE DOOM!! WHAT IF I'M LOSIN' MY GUTS? WHAT IF I'VE TURNED CHICKEN??

AND SO...
BLAST THE LUCK! HOW DID RICHARDS ESCAPE?? I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST NOW!
REED, WE BROUGHT DOCTOR DOOM HERE, SO YOU COULD TELL US WHAT TO DO WITH HIM!
NO--NO! DON'T ASK HIM! NOT HIM! HOW CAN I CONVINCE YOU?? THERE MUST BE SOME WAY!

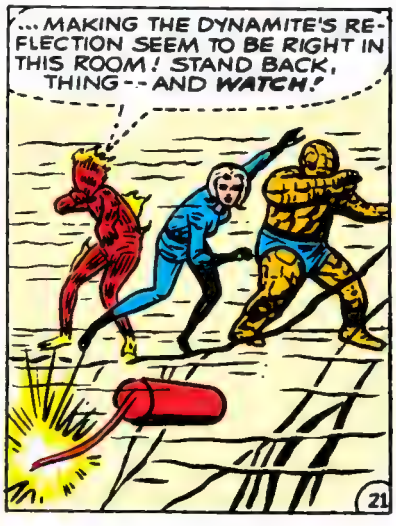

THERE! I PUT ELECTRONIC COIL ROPES ON HIS WRISTS THEY'LL KEEP HIM HARMLESS FOR AWHILE! NOW LET'S GET TO THE RAY! ONCE I'VE INCREASED YOUR POWERS, YOU'LL BE BETTER ABLE TO DEAL WITH DR. DOOM!
CAN'T WASTE A SECOND! I'VE GOT TO DISPOSE OF THESE THREE WHILE RICHARDS IS HELPLESS!

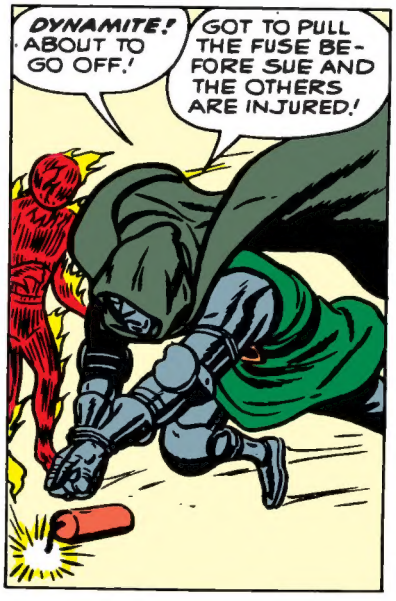

THAT'S IT, SUE! NOW YOU STAND NEXT TO HER, TORCH--AND YOU TOO, THING! THIS IS A GREAT MOMENT FOR US!
THEY'LL NEVER KNOW HOW GREAT! IN A FEW SECONDS I'LL BE RID OF THEM FOREVER! AND THEN I CAN FINISH MR. FANTASTIC OFF AT MY LEISURE!


BUT, AT THAT INSTANT, A DESPERATE FIGURE HURLS HIMSELF INTO THE ROOM...
DON'T DO IT! DON'T LET HIM TRAIN THAT RAY ON YOU! BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT ME, BUT DON'T TRUST HIM! HE'LL DESTROY YOU!
STAY BACK, YOU MEDDLING FOOL! BACK, I SAY!

NOW I KNOW WHAT'S BEEN BUGGIN' ME! IT SOUNDS CRAZY BUT REED SOMEHOW DON'T SOUND LIKE REED!
I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING! LET ME HANDLE THIS, THING! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

"THERE ARE SOME CONSTRUCTION MEN EXCAVATING A BUILDING FOUNDATION ON THE STREET BELOW! BY CONTROLLING MY HEAT, I CAN WARM UP THE PARTICLES IN THE AIR HERE ENOUGH TO CAUSE A HEAT MIRAGE"...

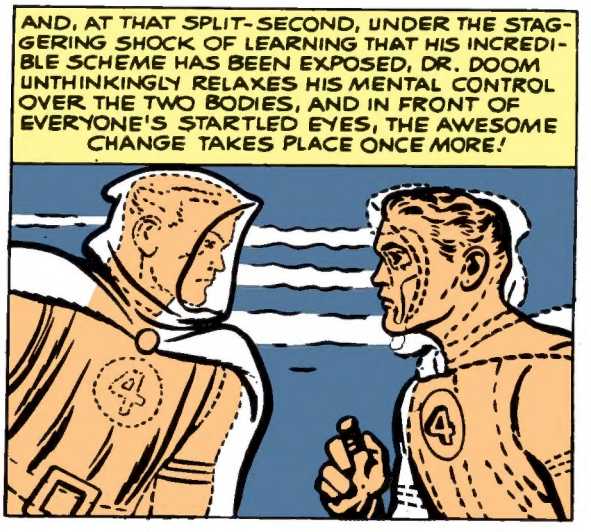

...MAKING THE DYNAMITE'S REFLECTION SEEM TO BE RIGHT IN THIS ROOM! STAND BACK, THING--AND WATCH!


DYNAMITE! ABOUT TO GO OFF!
GOT TO PULL THE FUSE BEFORE SUE AND THE OTHERS ARE INJURED!

DYNAMITE! I'LL SAVE MYSELF BY SLITHERING UP THIS VENT!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOIN'?!

COME BACK HERE, BUSTER! YOU GOT A HEAP OF EXPLAININ' TO DO!
NO! LET GO, YOU FOOL! ARE YOU MAD?!

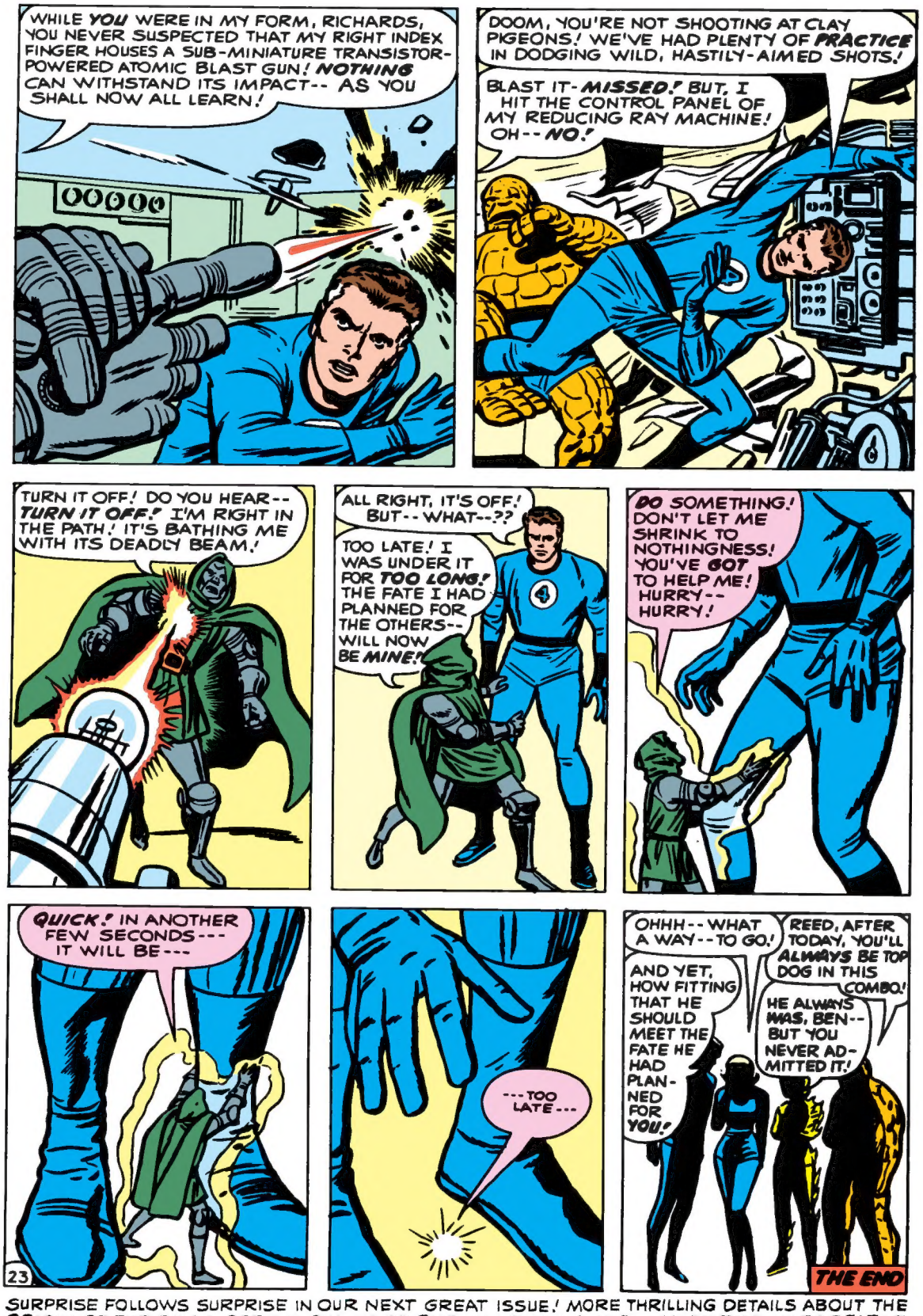
BROTHER, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MAD! CRAZY AS IT IS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU AND REED SWITCHED BODIES...
YEAH! MY TRICK WORKED! I KNEW THAT THE REAL DOCTOR DOOM WOULD TRY TO SAVE HIS OWN WORTHLESS HIDE, WHILE THE REAL MR. FANTASTIC WOULD TRY TO SAVE THE REST OF US!
YOU-YOU KNOW??!!


AND, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, UNDER THE STAGGERING SHOCK OF LEARNING THAT HIS INCREDIBLE SCHEME HAS BEEN EXPOSED, DR. DOOM UNTHINKINGLY RELAXES HIS MENTAL CONTROL OVER THE TWO BODIES, AND IN FRONT OF EVERYONE'S STARTLED EYES, THE AWESOME CHANGE TAKES PLACE ONCE MORE!

WHAT HAVE I DONE?! I-I'M MYSELF AGAIN! I'VE FAILED! I'VE BEEN DEFEATED--BY THE ACCURSED FANTASTIC FOUR!

STOP! STAY BACK! ALL OF YOU! I'M STILL DR. DOOM! YOU'LL NEVER BRING ME TO JUSTICE, DO YOU HEAR! I'LL FIND A WAY TO BEAT YOU YET!

BACK, I SAY! NONE MAY LAY A HAND ON DR. DOOM! I STILL HAVE ONE MORE ACE I CAN PLAY!


WHILE YOU WERE IN MY FORM, RICHARDS, YOU NEVER SUSPECTED THAT MY RIGHT INDEX FINGER HOUSES A SUB-MINIATURE TRANSISTOR-POWERED ATOMIC BLAST GUN! NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND ITS IMPACT-- AS YOU SHALL NOW ALL LEARN!
DOOM, YOU'RE NOT SHOOTING AT CLAY PIGEONS! WE'VE HAD PLENTY OF PRACTICE IN DODGING WILD, HASTILY-AIMED SHOTS!
BLAST IT-MISSED! BUT, I HIT THE CONTROL PANEL OF MY REDUCING RAY MACHINE! OH--NO!
TURN IT OFF! DO YOU HEAR-- TURN IT OFF! I'M RIGHT IN THE PATH! IT'S BATHING ME WITH ITS DEADLY BEAM!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S OFF! BUT-- WHAT--??
TOO LATE! I WAS UNDER IT FOR TOO LONG! THE FATE I HAD PLANNED FOR THE OTHERS-- WILL NOW BE MINE!
DO SOMETHING! DON'T LET ME SHRINK TO NOTHINGNESS! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! HURRY-- HURRY!
QUICK! IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS--- IT WILL BE---
---TOO LATE---
OHHH-- WHAT A WAY-- TO GO!
AND YET, HOW FITTING THAT HE SHOULD MEET THE FATE HE HAD PLANNED FOR YOU!
REED, AFTER TODAY, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE TOP DOG IN THIS COMBO!
HE ALWAYS WAS, BEN-- BUT YOU NEVER ADMITTED IT!
THE END

SURPRISE FOLLOWS SURPRISE IN OUR NEXT GREAT ISSUE! MORE THRILLING DETAILS ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF THE F.F.! A SPECIAL PIN-UP OF SUB-MARINER! AND--MEET THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN! RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY!-- Stan + Jack

THE FANTASTIC FOUR
PIN-UP PAGE
SUE STORM, The Glamorous INVISIBLE GIRL
IN ANSWER TO MANY REQUESTS, NOTE THE DETAILS IN THE CONTROL PANEL OF SUE'S SECTION OF THE FABULOUS FANTASTI-CAR!
4
1962
Love and Kisses to my Wonderful Fans — Sue

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